

George Washington Papers, Series 5, Financial Papers

***To RICHARD WASHINGTON**

Fort Loudoun, April 15, 1757.

Dear Sir : After so long Silence it maybe expected, I shou'd introduce this Letter with an Apology for my seeming neglect, it is necessary to urge something in my defence I own Sir, that I may satisfy you it proceeds from a very different cause than the want of Inclination, and what can be so proper as the truth.

I have been posted then for twenty Months past upon our cold and Barren Frontiers, to perform I think I may say impossibilitys that is, to protect from the cruel Incursions of a Crafty Savage Enemy a line of Inhabitants of more than 350 Miles in extent with a force inadequate to the taske, by this means I am become in a manner an exile and Seldom inform'd of those oppertunitys, which I might otherwise embrace, of corrisponding with my friends.

Experience Sir, has convinc'd every thinking Man in this Colony, that we must bid adieu to peace and Safety whilst the French are allow'd to possess the Ohio, and to practise their hellish Arts among the numerous Tribes of Indian Nations that Inhabit those Regions. They are also convinc'd that it must be attended with an expence infinitely greater to defend our Possessions (as they ought to be defended) against the sculking Enemy than to remove the cause of our groundless Fears, in the reduction of the Place, Fort Duquesne I mean, yet, from what strange Causes I know not, no attempts this Season will be made I fear, to destroy this Hold of Barbarians, for they deserve no better a name who have become a Terror to three populous Colonies. Virginia may justly say that she was always willing to furnish her full proportion of Men and money for this desirable end; and I think I can venture to affirm that there never was, and verily I believe never will be, a more favourable time than the present for an Enterprise of this kind while the Enemy's Troops are doubtless drawn of to the Northward to defend themselves at home against the more formidable attacks of Lord Loudoun.

I have now to add. That I am so little acquainted with the Business relative to my private Affairs that I can scarce give you any information concerning it. I know that I ought to have some Tobacco and that it ought to be shipp'd; that I have beg'd the favour of Colo. Carlyle on Potomack and Fielding Lewis, Esqr., on Rappahannock to do this for me and I desir'd them to write you in my behalf and draw for Sundry things which I am in want of; but whether any part, or all of this is done I know not. I shall therefore desire these two things of you; first that you may put yourself to no real

Inconvenience in providing Goods to greater amount than my remittances will fetch, because I by no means intended to be troublesome when I solicited your Corrispondence; and secondly, that whatever Goods you may send me where the prices are not absolutely limited you will let them be fashionable, neat, and good in their several kinds. Enclos'd is a List of Sundries which I shou'd be glad to receive agreeable to those Directions. I am, &c.

***To RICHARD WASHINGTON**

Fort Loudoun, September 10, 1757.

Dear Sir: The Inclos'd addresses Copy of mine of the 15th. April by a Vessel which I find has mistaken her Rout and got to France.

On board the Integrity Captn. Thompson I ship'd 14 Hhds. of best Sweet-Scented Tobo. for 4 of which and no more I was allow'd liberty of Consignment; and these four I Ship'd to you; the other ten together with 8 More in Captn. Younger are sent to Mr. Bacon; of whom please to demand the neat proceeds.

Alexandria Captn. McKay is preparing with all possible dispatch to Sail with the Convoy: On Board her I have put eight Hhds. consign'd to yourself and I have order'd my present Crop (which at this time wears a very favourable Aspect, and without some Signal Stroke of Providence will equal my most Sanguine expectations) to be got ready for the first Ships, after these which are just taking their Departure; and for as many as I can get liberty I will ship to yourself, but it is with concern I tell you, we have very little choice.

I have receiv'd your favour of the 2d. of April, and find Insurance so exorbitantly high, that I have determined to risk my Tobo, as it is convey'd in several bottoms. But my Goods, unless they come under Convoy (and even then if you think proper) I wou'd choose to ensure. In the Invoice Mr. Caryle sent you for me I think [

10 Guins price. This is of 12 Months standing, which gives me cause to fear, having heard no mention of it by you, that his Letter has miscarried; if this is really the case please to embrace the earliest oppertunity of complying w' this desire and send'g spare Scab'ds and Slips w' it. I am Dr. Sir, etc.

⁶⁷] for a Small Sword of 8 or

67. Space between brackets indicates mutilated manuscript.

***To ANTHONY BACON & CO.**

[Fort Loudoun], September 10, 1757.

Gentn: I hope by the time this comes to hand you will receive Eighteen Hogsheads of my Tobo. Ten in the Integrity and eight in the endeavour Captns. Thompson and Younger. That in Captn. Thompson was of the best Sweetscented, neatly handled; and must if the Ship arriv'd Safe get to Market in the Nick of time. The other by Captn. Younger is also of the best quality and Weights, for which Reasons I expect they will Command such prices as I know the like Tobo. fetches to my Acquaintances in Virginia.

I can't forbear confessing Sir, that the exceeding low price you got for my first venture to you discourag'd me for sometime from making a Second; but as I expect for the time to come, to Ship, if I find my Accts. in it, a pretty considerable quantity of the best Tobos. of my own growth annually I flatter myself you will deal by me in such a manner as to render a change of Merchts. unnecessary. The Nett proceeds of these Tobaccos you will please pay my name-sake Mr. Rich'd Washington.

I thank you very heartily Sir, for the Magazine you sent me, and your kind offer to render me Services. I am now remov'd to this place, and shall if continued at it, be more convenient than I have been to Cultivate a more intimate correspondance.[⁶⁸

68. Space between brackets indicates mutilated manuscript.

***To THOMAS KNOX⁸⁶**

Mount Vernon, December 26, 1757.

Sir: Your favour of the 28th. September came to hand the 20th. Inst't. My Goods, that is, such part as you have sent me I am told will be round from Rappahannock River shortly. I can't help expressing great concern, and some Surprize at your not sending the following Articles, which were Included in an Invoice sent the 18th. Jan'y last, the Receipt of which you acknowledge. (viz)

4 Doz'n plaid Hose

½ doz'n Scythes and Stones

4 Curry Combs and Brushes

1 Doz'n Weeding Hoes

1 doz'n narrow and ½ doz'n Grub'g Do.

20 M 8d. Nails

20 M 10d. Ditto 10 M 20d.

20 M 4d. Ditto 5 M 6d.

and

1 Doz'n Logwood Axes.

These are Articles Sir, I greatly wanted, and must now be oblig'd to buy in the Country for this years use at exorbitant prices and that perhaps after sending over good part of the Country before they can be procur'd.

On board the Nugent Only I have 14 Hhds. Tobo. of the best Mountn. Sweetscented; your best endeavours in the Sales will be exerted I hope in my favour. Tobo. of the like kind, sent by my acquaintances to the London Market commands great prices, and this of mine made upon the same sort of Land as theirs is and handled equally as Neat will, I flatter myself, sell full as high in that of Bristol.

The Nett proceeds of this Latter, and Ball'e of the former Tobo. please to pay to Mr. Rich'd Washington of London, who is directed to draw upon you to the amount. Please also to Insure one hund'd pounds on the 14 Hhds., a Sum much less than the value of the Tobacco but I choose to risk part; I doubt not of hearing from you soon and receiving Accounts of Sales, and Acct. Curr't. I am Sir, etc.

86. A merchant of Bristol, England.

***To RICHARD WASHINGTON**

Mount Vernon, December 26, 1757.

Dear Sir: I have been under concern for sometime past at your long Silence; and have been put to many Shifts, and some Expence for want of my Goods: I have wrote you several times and address'd Copies, to which be refer'd.

I have now to inform you that finding no Ships for London and despairing of opportunities of consigning to yourself; I have put on board the Nugent Only, Captn. Copythorne for Bristol, fourteen Hhds. of best Sweet Scented Tobo. (this years Crop) and Consign'd them to Mr. Knox who I have drawn upon for some few things and desir'd him to pay the Ball'e of this as also of some former Tobo's into your Hands. I shall Ship more in the first Vessells for London or elsewhere if I find the Markets favourable; I hope you will take the first opportunity of sending me (if you have not already done it) all the Goods which, from time to time I have wrote for, and Inclose at the same time my Acct. Curr't. I am, with great Esteem, etc.

***To THOMAS KNOX**

Mount Vernon, January, 1758.

Sir: I wrote to you on the 26th. and 30th. Ulto. and Address'd Copies Since which I have receiv'd my Bill of Lading for 14 Hhds. Tobo. one of which is Inclos'd. I have also receiv'd my Goods from the Recovery, and cant help again complaining of the little care taken in the purchase: Besides leaving out one half, and the most material half too! of the Articles I sent for, I find the Sein is without Leads, Corks and Ropes which renders it useless;⁸⁷ the Crate of Stone ware dont contain a third of the Pieces I am charg'd with, and only two things broke, and every thing very high Charg'd. It wou'd be in my power, cou'd I be upon any degree of certainty that my Tobo. wou'd suit the Bristol Market, to Ship you a pretty large Quantity annually, but I apprehend the quality and Management will scarce meet an adequate price; what I have on board the Nugent is of this sort, and all of the present Years growth; the Sales of which in time enough for your Ships I shall recom'd them to your Care also.

In my last I desir'd two pair of Work'd Ruffles at a guinea each pair; if work'd Ruffles shou'd be out of fashion send such as are not, and to the things wrote for in my last add these following viz.

A Neat Maha'y Card Table w'ch may serve for a dress'g one.

2 doz'n Packs of play'g Cards

2 Setts Counters for Quadrille

1 doz'n watch Cristals better than an Inch and half Diameter

50 lb best Raisons

50 lb best Currents

50 lb Almonds in the Shell

1 Cask best bottled Cyder

½ doz'n dep white stone Dishes sortd.

½ Doz'n fashiol. China Bowls from a large to a Midlg. Size

3 doz'n Plates deep and Shallow

Your sending these things together with those wrote for in my last by the first Vessel will very much Oblige, I am,

87. The seine was for the Potomac fishing, the fish runs being utilized by Washington to lay up a stock of fish for food for his slaves as well as for sale. The catches were salted down in barrels and formed one of the staples of the negroes' food.

88. The tobacco Washington received from tenants upon his lands in the Shenandoah Valley and elsewhere.

***To RICHARD WASHINGTON**

Mount Vernon, January 8, 1758.

Dear Sir: I wrote you a Letter of the 26th. Ult.; since which I have had an oppertunity of seeing the great damage China is apt to come to in its transportation to this Country (unless much care is us'd in the Package) which has determin'd me to desire you if this gets to hand time enough for that purpose, to send me instead of what was directed in a former Invoice 2 doz'n Dishes (properly sorted) 2 doz'n deep Plates and 4 doz'n Shallow Ditto that allowance may be made for breakage, pray let them be neat and fashionable or send none.

I shall be very glad to send my Goods by the first opportunity; together with a true state of the Accts. between Us. I am, etc.

***To RICHARD WASHINGTON**

Williamsburg, March 18, 1758.

Dear Sir: Since my last of the 8 Jan'y I have receiv'd your favour of the 9th. of Septr. proceeding together with an Invoice and Acct. Currt.; but the carelessness of the Captn. prevent'd their coming to my hands till near Six Weeks after his arrival: and the Goods got home but a few days ago. I suppose I shou'd not have receiv'd them at all, had I not been at great pains and expence myself to send them up. So unaccountably Indolent is Captn. Dick! The Powder I have not receiv'd; and the Cyder was all lost.

The China came without any breakage, for which Reason I must counter order the addition to it desir'd in my last, and instead thereof beg you'll send me a Sumpture Saddle,⁹³ Bridle &ca. cornpleat for Furniture; with a sett of Holster Caps and a housing of fine blew Cloth, with a small edging of Silver Embroidery round them. My expectation of a large Crop of Tobo. has fallen greatly short; However, besides those you have an Acct. of already, I shall put on board a Vessel of Mr. Grymes's to your Consignment about 15 Hhds. which I hope you will make the most of; and least she may (being a very large Ship) lye sometime in the Country I shall remit you a Bill of Exchange, so soon as I can meet with a good one, of about £50 or 60; which with my other remittances and the £50 Insurance sav'd in the Integrety Captn. Thompson may go to my Credit.

I have been much afflicted by Sickness since last Fall, and am not yet recover'd, but hope I am now in a fair way of regaining my health; I shou'd always be glad to hear of your prosperity and am, etc.

93. A packsaddle.

***To THOMAS KNOX**

March 18, 1758.

Sir: If this reaches you in time, it is intended to prevent your purchasing the Saddle and Furniture, and two pair Work'd Ruffles desir'd in a Letter of the 30th. of Dec'r last; and instead thereof send me 60 Ells of Sheeting at about 4/pr. Ell. I am, etc.

***To RICHARD WASHINGTON**

Winchester, April 5, 1758.

Dear Sir: Captn. Whiting is arriv'd and my Letters by him are come to hand, but not the Goods: the latter I apprehend is in bad order as I understand the Captn. enter'd a protest immediately upon his arrival. The Locks and Hinges I fear are slight if I am to judge from their Sizes and price. The Sword pr. Captn. Nicholson I have receiv'd.

The Inclos'd is a Bill of Excha. for £100 Sterlg. 60 of w'ch the Cash is receiv'd must go to the Credit of Lord Fairfax. Mr. Carlyle will send the other's of the same Tenor and write fully on the matter; I lodg'd the other day £72.10 with Field'g Lewis Esq'r to buy me a Bill of £50 and hope you will receive that also in a very short time as he had hopes of purchasing of Mr. Hunter upon Lyde of London.

You will perhaps think me a crazy fellow to be ordering and Counterordering Goods almost in a breath. It was but the 18th. Ult. from Williamsburg that I wrote you Via Bristol, advising the arrival of my Goods pr Captn. Dick and desiring you wou'd desist sending me the China wrote for in a Letter of the 8th. Jan'y and in lieu thereof to send me a compleat sett of Horse Furniture I must here beg you will forbear sending either as I am now provided with the latter but dispatch the following things by the first Ship bound to any part of Virginia (Viz)

A Compleat hunting Saddle and Bridle with two neat Sadle Cloths to cost 40/ the whole.

As much of the best superfine Blue Cotton Velvet as will make a Coat Waistcoat and Breeches for a Tall Man with a fine Silk button to suit it and all other necessary Trimmings and Linings together with Garters for the Breeches.

Six pr. of the very neatest Shoes (viz) 2 pr. double Channel pumps; 2 pair turn'd Ditto and 2 pr. stitch'd Shoes to be made by one Didsbury on Colo. Bailers Last but to be a little wider over the Instep

Six pair Gloves, 3 pr. of w'ch to be proper for Riding and not to have Stiff Top's; the whole larger than the middle size.

I shou'd be extreemely glad to have the above things in as soon as possible.

If they go either to York or James River, recommend the Package to Peyton Randolph Esq'r Attorney Genl. Wms'burg and he will see that they are forwarded. This Letter is intended to go by the Packet from New York, and the Post is just setting out for that place which prevents my adding more than that I am, etc.

P.S. You are pleas'd to Dub me with a Title I have no Pretension's to, that is, the Hon'ble.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY, MERCHANTS, LONDON**

Williamsburg, May 1, 1759.

Gentln. The Inclos'd is the Ministers Certificate of my Marriage with Mrs. Martha Custis, properly as I am told, Authenticated, You will therefore for the future please to address all your Letters which relate to the Affairs of the late Danl. Parke Custis Esqr. to me, as by Marriage I am entitled to a third part of that Estate, and Invested likewise with the care of the other two thirds by a Decree of our Genl. Court which I obtain'd in order to strengthen the Power I before had in consequence of my Wiles Administration.

I have many Letters of yours in my possession unanswered but at present this serves only to advise you of the above Change and at the same time to acquaint you that I shall continue to make you the same Consignments of Tobo. as usual, and will endeavour to encrease it in proportion as I find myself and the Estate benefitted thereby.

The Scarcity of the last years Crop, and the high prices of Tobo. consequent thereupon wou'd in any other Case, have induc'd me to sell the Estates Crop (which indeed is only 16 Hhds.) in the Country but for a present, and I hope small advantage only I did not care to break the Chain of Corrispondance that had so long subsisted, and therefore have, according to your desire, given Captn. Talman an offer of the whole.

On the otherside is an Invoice of some Goods which I beg of you to send me by the first Ship bound either to Potomack or Rappahannock, as I am in immediate want of them. Let them be Insur'd, and in case of Accident reshipp'd witht. Delay; direct for me at Mount Vernon Potomack River Virginia; the former is the name of my Seat the other of the River on which 'tis Situated. I am, &c.

***To RICHARD WASHINGTON**

Mount Vernon, May 7, 1759.

Dear Sir: Your Letter of the 9th. of Septr. Inclosing a Copy of your former of the 5th. July preceeding came to my hands about the first of March last: I am glad that the several Bills remitted you were accepted; I had no Cause to doubt their goodness, but we notwithstanding are often deceiv'd. I now Inclose you one for £40.9. as I find Mr. Knox has sold my Tobo. for about one third part of its value, and Mr. Bacon that which I sent him under its real worth; I have no Accts. yet of the Sales of that sent you.

The Short Crops last year puts it out of my power to Ship you any Tobo. this; I made very little myself, and none is to be bought Under 50/pr. ct. I shall shortly take an oppertunity of remitting you another Bill as I don't know how our Acct. stands Ballanc'd.

'Till I hear from you, I have nothing worth mentioning, I have quit a Military Life; and Shortly shall be fix'd at this place with an agreable Partner, and then shall be able to conduct my own business with more punctuality than heretofore as it will pass under my own immediate Inspection; a thing Impractacable while I discharg'd my Duty in the Publick Service of the Country, I am, etc.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Virginia, June 12, 1759.

Gentn: In a Letter which I wrote you the first of last Month was Inclos'd an Invoice of Sundries which I then was, and still am, much in need of. If those Goods shou'd not be Ship'd before this Letter gets to hand pray add to your purchase the things which you will find on the other side and send them as there directed.

I shall find occasion to write you fully by the Fleet and Inclosing a list of Sundries that will be wanted for the Estates use, and till then I shall forbear to trouble you with particulars, as I shall expect also by that time to get some Acct. of the Sales of the Estates Tobo. sent you, and an Acct. Curr. as this last is necessary for me to compare with my own Accts. in order to a satisfactory Settlement with our Genl. Court I entreat you to be punctual in sending me one Spring and Fall yearly.

I shall keep the Estate under the same direction as formerly, neither altering the managers, kind of Tobo. or manner of treating it, unless you advise otherwise for our Interest, and while I continue to persue this method I hope you will be able to render such Sales as will not only justifie the prest. Consignments to you but encourage my enlarging them; for I shall be candid in telling you that duty to the Charge with which I am entrusted as well as self Interest will incline me to abide by those who gives the greatest proof of their Abilities in selling my own and the Estates Tobo. and purchasing Our Goods which I can no otherwise judge of than by the Accts. that will be render'd; and here permit me to ask if it wou'd be advisable to change the Marks of any of the Tobo. or had I best Ship it all under the usual Marks, if so, my part may be known by some small distinction, such as you can best advise.

In my last among other things I desir'd you wou'd send me (besides a Small Octavo volume) the best System now extent of Agriculture; since which I have been told that there is one lately publish'd; done by various hands, but chiefly collected from the Papers of Mr. Hale⁹ If this is known to be the best pray send it but not if any other is in higher Esteem. I am Gentn., etc.

9. Probably Thomas Hale's *A Compleat Body of Husbandry*, published by T. Osborne (London: 1758-59).

***To CAPEL AND OSGOOD HANBURY**

Virginia, June 12, 1759.

Gentn: It will be needless I presume, unless it be for Formsake, to tell you so long after the thing has happen'd, of my Marriage with Mrs. Martha Custis; you doubtless have heard of it before this can reach you, but as I thought proof might be requisite I sent over the Ministers certificate (which I was told was sufficient testimony) to Messr. Cary & Compa. and to that I also refer you for your further satisfaction on this point.

I must now desire that you will please to address all your Letters which relate to the Affairs of the Deceas'd Colo. Custis to me as by Marriage I am entitled to a third part of that Estate, and invested with the care of the other two thirds by a Decree of our Genl. Court which I obtain'd in order to strengthen the power I before had in Consequence of my Wiles Administration.

Your several Letters of last Year that are unanswer'd bearing date the 6th. July, 12th. Septr. and 26th. Deer. now lye before me, and I shall take notice of them accordingly; but give me leave in the first place to condole with you, and I do it very sincerely, on the Death of your Relation and Partner,

John Hanbury Esqr. The 28 Hogsheads Tobacco Ship'd you pr. the King of Prussia has not only fallen short very greatly of the Sales of those Consign'd Mr. Cary, but even of your own Sales in other years which I am the more surpriz'd at as Tobo. was scarce that year and I assur'd by the Manager of that belonging to the Estate that it pass'd thro their hands in the same good Order as usual, and that it was of the same kind and Quality.

I hope your next will Account for the Tobo. taken in the Anna Pink which I think has long remain'd in an undeterminate state.

Dunbars Lawsuit is again brought to Virginia; what the Reports might be that were spread to your prejudice I really know not

for my own part I shou'd never harbour a Suspicion of any Gentlm. who is charged with the management of a Suit of that Importance. It wou'd be very disengenuous, and dishonourable; give it no worse a name, first to undertake, and then neglect a Cause that so nearly Affects the Interest of a distant friend, and Antient Corrispondant and therefore you stand fully acquitted in my Eye.

The exceeding short Crops of Tobo. last year render's it impractacable for me to Ship you any this Summer; next, as things wears a favourable aspect at present I shall possibly have it in my power to do it; but give me leave to add here, that Duty to the charge which I am entrusted as well as self Interest will induce me to abide by the Merchants who shews the greatest Exertion in the Sales of my own and the Estates Tobo. which will be made under the same direction, and without altering the kind or manner of treating unless you can advise a better method of making it sell well.

I cannot help expressing some little Surprise at not receiving your Acct. Curr. with the Estate when I find it requir'd in almost every Letter that has been wrote you since Colo. Custis's Death and as often promis'd by you. I must once more require in the strongest terms that it may be sent half yearly from the time of that Gentlemans Death, that by comparing these with his Books I may be able to make out clear and Satisfactory Accts. to Our Genl. Court and that they also be punctually sent Spring and Fall for the time to come, I am, etc.¹⁰

10. On September 20 Washington again wrote Hanbury practically a duplicate of this letter of June 12. and on November 30 another of practically the same tenor.

***To JAMES GILDART**

Virginia, June 12, 1759.

Sir: Doubtless before this you have heard of my Marriage with Mrs. Martha Custis; but the Inclos'd is the Ministers certificate of that Marriage, and will serve to evince it, be pleas'd therefore for the future to address all your Letters which relate to the Estate of the late Danl. P. Custis, Esqr. to me, as I am, besides my property therein invested by a Decree of Our Genl. Court w' the care of the rest.

Before me now lye your fav'rs of the 13th. of June 1758 and 21st. Feby. following Inclosing an Invoice of Sundrys which have been all deliver'd except the Crate of Stone Ware, and this I don't know as yet who to look to for; in your former you Speak of Accts. of Sales being sent for 16 Hhds. Tobo. Ship'd you by the Gildart Capt'n. Mulloy and five others by the Hare but whether you forgot to Inclose them, or they have been misplac'd since their arrival I can't take upon me to determine but certain it is, that neither of them are to be found I must therefore desire you will transmit me Copies of them by the first Vessell and at the same time send me the Accts. Curr't., this you have in several Letters promis'd to do but none has ever yet appear'd. I want them every half yearly since Colo. Custis's death that by comparing them with his Books I may render Satisfactory Accts. to Our Genl. Court of my Wifes Administration and I hope for the future you will be punctual in observing it.

I cant imagine how it happens that the last Tobo. Ship'd you sh'd be of a worse quality than formerly; the Overseers all Affirm to me that the Tobo. was of the same kind and quality here, however I am perswaded you have before this made the most of it and we must therefore be satisfied. The exceeding short Crop last year in genl. and the little made by this Estate in particular puts it out of my power to Consign you any Tobo. this Summer, but the promising appearance that the present Crop assumes may enable me to do it next if your Sales will justifie me in it. I apprehend an occasion of writing to you as formerly [for] Goods for the Estates use and I shall take an oppertunity of doing so accordingly sometime this Summer, at present I have only to add that, I am Sir, etc.¹¹

11. On September 20 Washington wrote to Gildart practically a duplicate of this letter of June 12.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Virginia, July 2, 1759.

Gentln: By the Fair American William Thompson Master a Ship belonging to—I send you fifteen Hhds. Tobo. the whole Amount of the Estates Crop this Year; one tho only excepted, which I cou'd not get on board in time as it lay up Pamunky River. Be pleas'd therefore to Insure the above fifteen

Hhds. in the usual manner for the Estates Interest, and being perswaded you are the best Judge of this, I leave it to your Descretion to fix upon a Sum. I am, etc.

***To CAPEL AND OSGOOD HANBURY**

Mount Vernon, August 26, 1759.

Gentn: I shall draw upon you in a few days to the Amount of about £150 in two setts of Exchange: the one payable to Messrs. Champe and Hunter of Virginia and the other to Mr. Richd. Washington of London. I did not think it amiss to give you this earliest Advice (via Whitehaven) of my Intentions but shou'd not have doubted your Acceptance of my Bills without it as I in a former of the 12th. June advertis'd you of my Marriage with Mrs. Martha Custis Relict of Danl. P. Custis Esqr. deceas'd by which I am empower'd to draw for the Estates money in your hands. I am Gentn., etc.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Mount Vernon, September 20, 1759.

Gentn: This will make the fourth Letter I have wrote to you since my Marriage with Mrs. Martha Custis; the two first serv'd to cover Invoices of such Goods I wanted, and to advise you at the same time of the change in her Affairs, and how necessary it wou'd be to address for the future, all your Letters which relate to the Estate of the deceas'd Colo. Custis to me; the last tended only to order Insurance on 15 Hhds. Tobo. pt. the Fair American.

I shall now endeavour to take notice of such parts of your Letters, as require answering, and then advise what is needful to be done as matters are Circumstanc'd at present. In regard to the former, there remains no great deal to be said, unless you will permit me to condemn your premature Sales of the Estates Tobo. by Whelden in wch I shou'd have thought a little delay w'd have appear'd absolutely advisable for another Reason besides that mention'd by you of an additional Duty taking place and th't was the great Demand of Tobo. and rising price in the Country of w'ch you cou'd not be unadvis'd from your Corrispondants in Virginia; however I dare say you did for the best, and we must therefore be satisfied; and in this place, as an Individual give me leave to offer you my thanks for the Opposition you made to this Duty, had all y'r Brethren in the Trade merited our acknowledgm'ts in the same manner this duty, probably, might never have been laid. I remark the pains you take to shew the Impropriety of pay'g the Duty of the Estates Tobo.; when money is want'g it can't be expected, but when a Sum lyes in your hands it sh'd certainly be applied that way as far as

it will go. I likewise observe the Difficulties you have met with in settling for the Interest of the Bank Stock, but I hope that is now over, unless any part or the whole shou'd require transferring (when a division of the Estate is made) and then timely notice will be given, but till this happens, it may be receiv'd and plac'd to the Estates Credit in the usual manner.

From this time it will be requisite, that you shou'd raise three Accounts; One for me, another for the Estate, and a third for Miss Patty Custis; or if you think it more eligible and I believe it will, make me Debtor on my own Acct. for Jno. Parke Custis, and for Miss Martha Parke Custis, as each will have their part of the Estate Assign'd them this Fall, and the

whole will remain under my management whose particular care it shall be to distinguish always either by Letter or Invoice from whom Tobacco's are ship'd, and for whose use Goods are Imported in Order to prevent any mistakes arising. The Estates Credit now in your hands may be applied towards answering the whole Drafts that have been, and shall be made this year; and it must appear very plain from my former Letters, as well as from what is here said how necessary it is to send regular Accounts Curr't. that by comparing them with the Books here Satisfactory Settlements may, from time to time, be made to our Genl. Court.

The Tobo. per the Fair American will make its appearance I apprehend in a very irregular manner. Capt'n. Talman first engag'd it to be sent by the Cary, then by the Randolph; and being disappointed in both I had to seek for a Conveyance myself and by mere good luck got it on board Capt'n. Thompson but not till I had first been at the trouble and expence of Carting it across from York to James River for his Craft to take it in. The Vessel being upon the point of sailing at that time a Gentleman at Norfolk where she lay promis'd to receive the Bills of Lading and send them by different oppertunities under cover to you, but loosing my Memm. wrote to me a Month afterwards for fresh directions which I suppose did not reach him till some time after the Vessel had Sail'd. I shall endeavour to put what Tobacco I can on Board the Cary, as I understand she is to wait for the New Crop; it will be needless I am persuaded to bespeak your best care in the Sales of it as you must be sensible the present high price of Tobo. gives us room to expect extraordinary returns for this years produce so early Ship'd.

I am possess'd of several Plantations on this River (Potomack) and the fine Lands of Shenandoah, and shou'd be glad if you wou'd ingenuously tell me what prices I might expect you to render for Tobacco's made thereon of the same seed of that of the Estate's and manag'd in every respect in the same manner as the best Tobacco's on James or York River's axe. I ask this question

for my own private Information, and my Shipping of these Crops will be govern'd in a great measure by the answer you may give; therefore you will excuse me I hope, if I again desire the favour of you

to take some pains to inform yourselves exactly, because shou'd the prices differ from those of the Estate I might possibly think myself deceiv'd and be disgusted of Course.

Please to send the Goods contain'd in the Inclos'd Invoices and charge them as their directed. I flatter myself that particular care will be taken in choosing them, the want of which gives some Tradesmen an oppertunity of Imposing upon us most Vilely. The Coarse Goods for the Estates use are order'd from Liverpool this year, all but the Plaid Hose and these I beg you will cause to be sent from Glasgow in the usual manner and number directed to the care of Mr. Joseph Valentine or person managing the Estates business York River. I am Gentn. &c.¹²

12. The letter sent is in the University of Chicago Library; the "Letter Book" copy, in Washington's writing, is in the *Washington Papers*, Library of Congress.

***To RICHARD WASHINGTON**

Mount Vernon, September 20, 1759.

Dear Sir: Inclos'd you will receive a Bill (promis'd in my last of the 7th. May) which please to receive and place to my Credit, Since mine of the above date your agreeable favour of the 26th. March covering Invoice of Sundries pt. the desire is come to hand as has the Goods also in good Order which is more than most of the Importers by that Ship can boast great part of her Cargo being damagd; thro' the Negligence tis said of the Captain.

My Brother is safe arriv'd but little benifitted in point of Health by his Trip to England. The longing desire, which for many years I have had of visiting the great Matropolis of that Kingdom is not in the least abated by his prejudices because I think the small share of Health he enjoy'd while there must have given a Sensible Check to any pleasures he might figure to himself, and wou'd render any place Iirksome; but, I am now tied by the Leg and must set Inclination aside.

The Scale of Fortune in America is turn'd greatly in our favour, and Success is become the boon Companion of our Fortunate Generals. Twoud be folly in me to attempt particularising their Action's since you receive Accts. in a Channel So much more direct than from hence.

I am now I believe fixd at this Seat with an agreeable Consort for Life and hope to find more happiness in retirement than I ever experienc'd amidst a wide and bustling World; I thank you

heartily for your Affectionate Wishes; why wont you give me an occasion of Congratulating you in the same manner? None wou'd do it with more cordiality, and true sincerity than, Dear Sir, &c.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Virginia, November 25, 1759.

Gentln: Sometime this Week I expect to get on board the Cary for your House Fifty Hhds. Tobacco of my own and John Parke Custis; which please to ensure in the usual manner. I shall also by the same Ship send you ten or twelve Hhds. more if I can get them on board in time, but this I believe will be Impractacable if Captn. Falman uses that Dispatch in Loading which he now has in his power to do. My Goods pr. Captn. Yates are arriv'd in James River and I am oblig'd to you for your Deligence in sending them. I am Gentln., etc.

***To CAPEL AND OSGOOD HANBURY**

Virginia, November 25, 1759.

Gentln: On Board a Ship of Mr. Mills's (Virga.) call'd the Deliverance I have Ship'd 20 Hhds. Tobo. for your House which please to Insure in the usual manner; and sell to the best Advantage of Gentln. Yr. etc.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

November 30, 1759.

Gentn: By the George andCaptns. Richardson and Nicks who saild with the Fleet in September last I sent Invoices of such Goods as were wanting for myself Estate &cta. but knowing that the Latter unfortunately founderd at Sea soon after her Departure from Virginia and that the former may probably have sufferd by that Storm or some other accident, by which means my Letters &cta would miscarry I take this oppertunity by way of Bristol of addressing Copies of them, and over and above the things there wrote for to desire the favour of you to send me a neat Grait (for Coal or small Faggots) in the newest taste and of a Size to fit a Chimney abt. 3 feet wide and two Deep, and a fender suited to Ditto, Steel I believe are most usd at present; also send me a New Market Great Coat with a loose hood to it made of Blew Drab or broad Cloth with Straps before according to the

present taste, let it be made of such Cloth as will turn a good Shower of Rain and made long, and fit in other respects for a Man full 6 feet high and proportionately made, possibly the Measure sent for my other Cloths may be a good direction to these. Please to add also to the things Orderd for Mrs. Dandridge 12 yds. of Silver cold. Armozeen or Ducape and cause it to be packd up with the Rest of her things chargd with them &ca.

Five Days ago I dropt a Letter at Williamsburg, to take the first Conveyance to you, desiring Insurance on 50 Hhds Tobo pt. the Cary since then I have got 4 more Inspected and all on Float ready to deliver at the Ships side You will therefore Insure that quantity and dispose of them in the best manner for Our Interest. If Captn. Talman uses that Dispatch in Loading of his Vessell which I am sure he now has in his power to do this Tobo. wl come to a very good Market I hope.

It is almost as much trouble and expence getting Goods from any of the Rivers round to Potomack as the Original Charges of Shipping them amounts to, unless they are committed to the charge of very careful Captains who has an Interest in forwarding. I should be glad therefore if you woud take the oppertunity of some Ship to that River of sending my Goods for the Future.

Your favour of the 6th. Augt. I have had the pleasure of receiving, and acknowledge myself particularly obligd to you for your polite Congratulations on my Marriage, as I likewise am for your Dispatch of my Goods. I am Gentn.

***To JOHN DIDSBURY²⁰**

Virginia, November 30, 1759.

Sir: The first Shoes which I desir'd might be made by you for me, on Colo. Baylors Last are come in, and fit me tolerably well except that some of them are (if any thing) rather too short; as I imagine you will now be able to suit my foot exactly I beg you will for the future observe the following Directions in making the Shoes.

Let the hind Quarters always be high and very short so that they may Buckle high up on the Instep; the Heels midling high also.

Never more make any of Dog leather except one pair of Pumps in a Cargoe (which let be very neat) unless you send better Leather than they were made of before, for the two pair of Shoes scarcely lasted me twice as many days and had very fair wearing. If I shou'd find occasion to alter at any time these Directions you shall be timely advis'd of it, at present please to send me:

2 pair strong Shoes

1 pt. dble. Channel Pumps

2 pt. neat and fine Do.

1 pt. very neat turn'd Ditto

Mr. Cary will pay the Cost and I am Sir, etc.

20. A shoemaker of London.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Virginia, April 28, 1760.²⁷

Gentln: On Board the Russia Merchant Captn. Boyes I send you fifteen Hogheads of my own and Jno. P. Custis's Tobo. which please to Insure in the usual manner. By mistake four of the Fifty four Hhds intended you by the Cary were left out (serving now to make up the Fifteen Hogsheads) I suppose the Insurance of them may be withdrawn.

Please to send by the first Ship to York River²⁸ two Seins directed to the care of Mr. Joseph Valentine²⁹ and charge them to John Parke Custis. It is needless I apprehend to describe the Sizes as you may see by your Books what sorts have been sent every other year for sometime past; they must be here by the first of March certainly since the fishing Season begins then, and is of no long Continuance in that River. I am Gentn., etc.

27. Washington was at Williamsburg when he wrote this letter.

28. In the invoice of March, 1760, from Robert Cary & Co., is an item of—

2 Seins 35 fathoms long each, each 20 feet deep all through, made of the best 3 thd. laid twine, small Inch Meshes, hung loose on the lines and well fixd with Leads and Corks.

7 lb. of fine 3 thrd. laid Twine:

from Unwin & Wigglesworth—

A Tunbridge Tea Sett ¼

3 Neat Tunbridge Toys 1/

A Neat Book lath Tea Chest 4/6

A Bird on Bellows 5d.

A Cuckoo 10d.

A turnabout Parrot □

A Grocers Shop 5/

and from Mount & Page—

6 Small Books for Children 3/.

A Box best Household Stuff 4/6

A Straw patch box wt. a Glass 2/

A Neat dressd Wax Baby 3/6

An Aviary □

A Prussian Dragoon □

A Man Smoakg. 1/.

29. Joseph Valentine was overseer of the Custis York River plantation.

***To MR. FARREL³⁰**

30. A merchant of Bristol, England.

Mount Vernon, Virginia, July 30, 1760.

Sir: Captn. Cawsey at the time he receivd my Tobo. wrote me, that he shoud be in these parts before he Sald in order to give Bills of Lading and receive Letters for your House. But I suppose the Captns. business render'd it inconvenient for him to do so, and my not seeing, nor hearing from him since; and getting no Bills of Lading at all, must plead an excuse for my silence till now.

He has doubtless informd you that I had Eight Hogsheads on Board the Tyger, which please to sell to the best advantage, and out of the proceeds pay Mr. Knox³¹ the Sterling Sum of Fifty one pounds five Shillings and Eleven pence, balle. of my Account with him.

31. Thomas Knox, also a Bristol merchant.

I have once or twice in my Life been very sensibly disappointed in the Sales of some Tobacco's; and that in Bristol, which obliges me to add, that if these Eight Hhds dont fetch the Amount of Mr. Knox's Account I must nevertheless desire the favour of you to discharge it, and draw for the Balle. on Robt. Cary Esqr. and Corn. London, who will immediately pay what you may advance on my behalf. I am Sir, etc.

By the Nugent Only, Capt. Copithorn Copy, By Captn. Littledale, in the Hero

***To RICHARD WASHINGTON**

Mount Vernon, August 10, 1760.

Dear Sir: Colo. Fairfax's departure for England in a Ship for London, affords me the best opportunity imaginable to acknowledge the Receipt of your favors of the 22d Novr., 12th. Decr. and 26 March, which are all the letters I have received from you since those taken notice of in mine of the 20th. of Septr. last.

I must confess that my disappointment in the Sales of my Tobo. per Couzens, was a very sensible one, having seen no Accts. of Tobaccos by that Ship (till then) under £12 pr. Hhd., and few, very few indeed, that did not averige 14, and from that to 15 and 16 pounds pr. Hhd: mine being all Sweetscented and neatly managed, left me no room to suspect coming in at the Fall of the Market. The discouraging Sales I have generally got for all Tobos. Shipped of my own growth, has induced me to dispose of my last year's Crop in the Country, the price being good and certain. but this may not always happen, and while I can Ship without loss I shall always be glad to have it in my

power of consigning you a part. I dare say your Account Currnt transmitted in Deer. last is very right, altho I shoud have understood it better had you credited me for £50 Insurd on my Tobacco pt. the Integrity, and made me debtor for the Premio, &ca. There is another Article of Interest short £12 which I should be glad to have explaind; if it is for Interest on the money you have lain in Advance for me I am extreamely willing to allow it, thinking it just and never intending to put you to the least Inconvenience on my Account. I hope, before this Letter can have reached you, that you have recovered my loss of Goods retaken in Captn. Down's.

The French are so well Drubd, and seem so much humbled in America, that I apprehend our Generals will find it no difficult matter to reduce Canada to our Obedience this Summer,³² but what may be Montgomery's Fate in the Cherokee Country I wont so readily determine.

It seems he has made a prosperous beginning having penetrated into the Heart of the Country, and he is now

32. In the year 1759 Ticonderoga had been taken by General Amherst, Niagara by Sir William Johnson, and Quebec had fallen in consequence of the victory of Wolfe on the Plains of Abraham.

advancing his Troops in high health and Spirits to the relief of Fort Loudoun. But let him be wary, he has a crafty, Subtil Enemy to deal with that may give him most trouble when he least expects it.³³ We are in pain here for the King of Prussia, and wish Hanover safe, these being Events in which we are much Interested.

My indulging myself in a trip to England depends upon so many contingencies, (which, in all probability, may never happen) that I dare not even think of such a Gratification, than which nothing is more ardently desired; but Mrs. Washington and I both woud think ourselves very happy in the oppertunity of shewing you the Virginia Hospitality, which is the most agreeable entertainment we can give, or a Stranger expect to find in an Infant Woody Country, such as ours is. I am, &c.

33. Such proved, in fact, to be the fate of Colonel Montgomery. He marched from South Carolina with a party of regular troops and militia, and was at first successful in destroying several Indian towns, but fell at length into an ambushade, where the Indians defeated him, with a loss of 20 of his men killed and 71 wounded. He was obliged to retreat and return to South Carolina without making any farther progress. Fort Loudoun (in Pennsylvania [Tennessee]), situated on the borders of the Cherokee country, was reduced to the greatest extremity by hunger, and the garrison forced to capitulate on August 6 to the Indians, who agreed to escort the officers and men in safety to another fort. They were, however, made the victims of treachery, for the day after their departure a body of

savages waylaid them, killed some, and captured the others, whom they took back to Fort Loudoun. (See Ramsay's *History of South Carolina*, vol. 1, p. 177, and *Gentleman's Magazine* (1760), pp. 393, 442, 541.)

***To CAPEL AND OSGOOD HANBURY**

Mount Vernon, August 10, 1760.

Gentn: By my friend Mr. Fairfax³⁴ I take the oppertunity of acknowledging the receipt of your favour pt. Captn. Waker and once since of later date by Capt. Chew. I am very sorry for the Account (given in the latter of the Deliverance being lost. All the Tobacco I had on board her was ? and I dare say woud have disgracd no Market whatever, but accidents of this Nature are common and ought not to be repind at.

We had a very favourable prospect sometime ago of making large Crops of Tobacco, but a continued series of Rain for near 4 Weeks has given a sad turn to our expectations and now I verely believe that unless some very surprising change happens for the better again the Crops will be very short. A great deal of Tobo. being Drownd, and the rest spotting very fast, which is always a consequence of so much Wet Weather.

I hope you will have receivd for the Books retaken in Captn. Downs³⁵ before this Letter can reach you: they are not intended for ourselves, for which Reason I must get the favour of you to State an Acct. of the Costs with proper Credits that I may know how to settle for them here. I am Gentn. etc.

34. Col. George William Fairfax.

35. Captain Downs's ship had been captured by the French and again recaptured by the English.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Mount Vernon, August 10, 1760.

Gentn: By my Friend Mr. Fairfax I take the oppertunity of acknowledging the Receipts of your several favours that have come to hand since mine of the 30th. of November last, and observe in one of

them of the 14 Feby. by Crawford that you refer to another by the same Ship, but this has never yet appeared.

Inclosed you are presented with the Memm. for receiving the Interest of the Bank-Stock signd as directed.³⁶ The Estate not yet being so amply settled as it ought, an entire division has not been made which leaves many matters upon an instable footing, and among the rest the money in your Hands which has not been Assignd to Individuals altho I believe it will Chiefly, it not all fall into my part since it best suits my purposes to have Money that can be Commanded, than money at Interest. However till matters comes to a more conclusive Settlement you may let the Accounts stand as you have stated them, charging each party with their own Drafts and Orders, and letting the Credits remain in favour of the Estate as a Common Stock till further Directions. The Tobacco Shipd pr. the Fair American, Cary, and Russia Merchant may be applied the same way but the present (growing) Crop will be Shipd on my own, and Jno. Parke Custis's particular Accounts (each having our Plantation's allotted Us) and must be applied to Our several Credits as you will be directed; so must all the remittances hereafter to be made.

The Insurance on the Tobo. pr. Talman³⁷ was high I think, higher than expected; And here Gentn. I cannot forbear ushering in a Complaint of the exorbitant prices of my Goods this year all of which are come to hand (except those packages put on board Hooper). For many Years I have Imported Goods from London as well as other Ports of Britain and can truely say I never had such a penny worth before. It woud be a needless Task to innumerate every Article that I have cause to except against, let it suffice to say that Woolens, Linnens, Nails &ca. are mean in quality but not in price, for in this they excel indeed, far above any I have ever had. It has always been a Custom with me

36. See Order on Bank of England, Nov. 16, 1759, *ante*.

37. Washington spells this both Talman and Falman.

when I make out my Invoices to estimate the Charge of them, this I do for my own satisfaction, to know whether I am too fast or not, and I seldom vary much from the real prices doing it from old Notes &ca. but the amount of your Invoice exceeds my Calculations above 25 pt. Ct. and many Articles not sent that were wrote for.

I must once again beg the favour of you never to send me any Goods but in a Potomack Ship, and for this purpose let me recommend Captn. John Johnson in an annual Ship of Mr. Russels to this River. Johnson is a person I am acquainted with, know him to be very careful and he comes past my Door in his Ship: I am certain therefore of always having my Goods Landed in Good time and

Order which never yet has happend when they come into another River: This year the Charming Polly went into Rappahannock and my Goods by her, recd. at different times and in bad order. The Porter entirely Drank out. There came no Invoice of Mrs. Dandridges Goods to me; I suppose it was forgot to be Inclosd.

I was owing Mr. Knox of Bristol a Balle. of £51.5.11 to discharge which, and be out of that Gentns. Debt. I Shipd Mr. Farrel eight Hhds. Tobo. in April last desiring him out of the proceeds to pay the above Sum but if in case (which I thought hardly possible) this Tobo. shoud be insufficient to answer this purpose then for him to draw upon you for what it might fall short; you will please therefore to notice this, and Mrs. Fairfax having kindly undertaken to purchase somethings for Mrs. Washington to the amount I suppose of Fifty or Sixty pounds I must likewise desire the favour of you to pay my Order in his favour so soon as presented. When you have receivd the Money for the Inclosd Bill please to Credit my Acct. for it.

As I shall write to you again by the Fleet I shall decline giving any directions about the Busts tilt then; sometime ago there was a prospect of making a large Crop of Tobacco this Summer but a Series of wet weather for near a Month, with little or no Intermission has causd general Complaints among the Planter and now it is feard that the Crops will be short. The Tobo. in many places being under Water and Drownd, and in other's suffering much by the Spot which is always

a Consequence of such Rains.

My Steward on York River writes me that he has receivd the Goods Orderd from Glasgow. Inclosd I address you the Copy of a Letter wrote from Williamsburg in April last, and in a Letter of the 20th. June I advertisd you of two Drafts I had made upon you, the one in favour of Mr. Jno. Addison for £364.19.0 and the other of Mr. William Digges for £304.15.3. These payments were in part for a valuable purchase I had just made of abt. 2000 Acres of Land adjoining this Seat. There are more payments yet to make, and possibly I may have occasion to draw upon you for a further Sum; tho not more I am well perswaded than you have effects to answer. Yet if at any time a prospect of Advantage should lead me beyond this a little I hope their will be no danger of my Bills returning. I mention this rather for a matter of Information (in case of such an Event) than as a thing I ever expect to happen; for my own aversion to running in Debt will always secure me against a Step of this Nature, unless a manifest advantage is likely to be the result of it.

Since writing the foregoing I have added to my Landed purchase, and shall have occasion in a few days to draw upon you the amount of about £250 payable to Mr. Robt. Brent, save a Bill of about £40 which will be passed in favour of Mr. Clifton. I am Gentn., etc.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Mount Vernon, September 28, 1760.

Gentn: Your Letter of the 31st. May Via Bristol came to hand a few days ago; and I take the opportunity by Captn. Johnston of Inclosing you my Second Bill of Lading, which is all that Captn. Talman gave; as my Steward inforind me. You will find by that there was only 50 Hhds Tobacco Shipd pr. the Cary, four by mistake being left out (as I wrote you in a Letter of the 28th. of April last) which went afterwards in the Russia Merchant with 12 others consind to yourselves. I hope they are safe arrivd.

By this conveyance, and under the same cover of this Letter, you will receive Invoices of such Goods as are wanting, which please to send as there directed by Captn. Johnston in the Spring; and let me beseech you Gentn. to give the necessary directions for purchasing of them upon the best Terms. It is needless for me to particularise the sorts, quality, or taste I woud choose to have them in unless it is observd; and you may believe me when I tell you that instead of getting things good and fashionable in their several kinds we often have Articles sent Us that coud only have been used by our Forefathers in the days of yore. 'Tis a custom, I have some Reason to believe, with many Shop keepers, and Tradesmen in Lodon when they know Goods are bespoke for Exportation to palm sometimes old, and sometimes very slight and indifferent Goods upon Us taking care at the same time to advance 10, 15 or perhaps 20 pr. Ct. upon them. My Packages pr. the Polly Captn. Hooper are not yet come to hand, and the Lord only, knows when they will without more trouble than they are worth. As to the Busts a future day will determine my choice of them if any are wrote for. Mrs. Washington sends home a Green Sack to get cleand, or fresh dyed of the same colour; made up into a handsome Sack again woud be her choice, but if the Cloth wont afford that, then to be thrown into a genteel Night Gown. The Pyramid you sent me last year got hurt, and the broken pieces I return by this opportunity to get New ones made by them; please to order that they be securely Packd.

I now address Copies of my last by Mr. Fairfax, in the Ship Wilson Captn. Coolage; and take occasion again to assure you, that the Crops of Tobacco this year will be shorter than you seem to expect. A very Wet Summer was the Cause of a good deal of Tobacco's drowning in the low Grounds, and of its firing on the high Lands. My Steward on York River writes me that their Expectations in those parts are greatly fallen, mine here is not a little shortned; however, if the Frosts dont take what little I have remaining, I purpose to Ship you 40 or 50 Hhds. of my own Crop from this River, but how much I shall be able to send you from York River I really cant say till I go down there, which will happen in a very few days, and from thence I will write you again. I shall endeavour however to contribute

something towards the dispatch of your Ship. The Bill which I thought I should have occasion to draw in favour of Mr. Clifton passed my hands the 20th. Ult. for £30 Sterling. I have neither seen, nor heard, any thing concerning the Salt from Liverpool yet. I am Gentl., etc.

P.S. Since writing the foregoing Letter, I recollect the expediency of having the Bill of Lading mention'd to be Inclos'd in the first part recorded, before I part with it for fear of Accident, this will consequently prevent its going by Johnston; but the first outward bound Ship from York or James River after I get down shall carry it.

***To CHARLES LAWRENCE**

Virginia, September 28, 1760.

Mr. Lawrence: For two years past Messrs. Cary and Company have sent me a suit of Cloaths of your making, that don't fit me so well as I could wish; this I attribute to some error in the measure that was sent.

Having now occasion for 4 pair Breeches as underneath (for which Mr. Cary will pay you) I have sent another measure for them, taken according to directions of a Taylor here: please to cut them out exactly by it, and if any faults should appear, I will endeavour to point them out in my next to you; be so good therefore to keep the Measure; and send me directions how to measure for a Coat. You will please to take Notice that the Inclos'd measure is the exact size of the Thigh &c. because it was taken over a thin, close pair of drawers, and no allowance made. I am Sir, etc.

1 pair Crimson Velvet Breeches

1 pair black silk Ditto

pair black Ditto worsted ditto

1 pair light colour'd silk Shag Ditto

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Williamsburg, October 8, 1760.

Gentn: This serves to cover a Certificate of the Tobo. I Shipd you in the Cary, which I hope will answer the end of a Bill of Lading. I am told it will do instead of recording the Bill, and as it is less expensive and soonest obtaind, I embrace the method.

Since my last I have past a sett of Bills in favour of Mr. George Brent (instead of Robt. Brent) for two hundred pounds Sterling which please to pay, and place to acct. of Gentn., etc.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

York River, October 24, 1760.

Gentn: I forebore in my Letter of the 28th. Ulto. to mention what quantity of Tobacco you might probably receive from myself and Ward from our Plantation on York River till I came down here, and now I am almost as much at a loss, as I was then, to guess; so bad is the Tobacco, and so short are the Crops (where proper care is taken to cull it, and that I have strictly chargd all my Overseers to do, being determind never to Ship any but the very best sorts). However, this you may be assur'd of, that the greatest share of what is made shall go consign'd to you and I am not without hopes that I shall be able to Ship you about 30 Hhds. on my own Acct. and perhaps 40 or more on my Wards.

On the other side you will receive Invoices of such Goods as will be wanting for my own and Mr. Jno. Parke Custis's Plantations on this River which please to send as there directed, under distinct Marks, and chargd to our respective Accounts but both consign'd to our Common Steward, Mr. Joseph Valentine with Copies of the Invoices (Originals to me) that he may commit no errors in appropriating the several Articles to our respective uses.

Your Letter of the 27th. of June Inclosing the Charge of Insurance of 15 Hhds. Tobacco pr. the Russian Merchant is come to hand, and my Letter of the 10th. of August last will direct how the proceeds of that, and all former Tobacco's should be applied. I hope the quantity of Tobo. mention'd by you, to be on hand, has not affected the Sales of the 15 Hhds. and I think I can venture to pronounce, your market will not be glutted with the present Crop. You have doubtless been fully inform'd by many of your Friends of the misfortune attending your Charterd Ship, it will be needless therefore for me to touch upon the Subject.

I have at different times sent for Hale's Husbandry but never yet got it, which I begin to attribute to a wrong description of the Title, having never till lately seen the Book; you will know it now by "A Cornpleat Body of Husbandry compiled from the Original Papers of the late Thomas Hale Esqr., enlarg'd from the Collection of others, &ca.". If any oppertuntiy shoud offer into Potomack before

Johnston may Sail in the Spring or, if any Ship should be bound for Rappanhannock River, please to send it to me;

together with Hartlibs Legacy of Husbandry and if it should so happen, that the first opportunity presents itself for the latter River, be pleased then to address the Books, and following things to the care of Fielding Lewis Esqr. at Fredericksburg. viz. Circumferentor; Pocket Book; Garden Seeds, Accordg. to mine of the 28th. Ult. and Hop Clover: let be 4 Bushels. and to them pray add abt. 20 Bushels of the best, and true Ray Grass Seed for all of them are Articles I would gladly get to hand as soon as possible. I mentioned in a former Letter, and perhaps it may not be amiss to remind you here, of the necessity of putting all these Seeds in the Cabin, or some place where the closeness, and heat of the Ship may not destroy the Vegetative virtue of them, which scarce ever fails to happen in a contrary Case. I am Gentl. etc.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Williamsburg, November 5, 1760.

Gentlemen: I am apprehensive, that by some mistake or other, my Letter of the 24th. Ult. and the Duplicate were put on Board the same Ship; I therefore send other Copies under this Cover.

My Friend and Acquaintance Mr. Bartholomew Dandridge having purchased an Entailed Estate in Lands of one Charles Lewis procured an Act of General Assembly for Docketing the said Entail (other Lands of equal value being settled in lieu thereof) but till such time as the Royal assent is obtained he cannot enter into quiet possession of the Freehold. He has therefore requested me, to ask the favour of you, to solicit the Affair for him, which I accordingly do, not conceiving that any difficulty or trouble can arise thereupon, all parties here, being perfectly satisfied. The shortness of my correspondence with you will not Authorise such liberties, but I hope you will excuse it in the present case. Mr. Dandridge will send you a Bill to defray the Charges.

Please to give my Acct. Credit for the Inclosed Bill when Received. I am Gentl. etc.

T*o ROBERT CARY & COMPANY

Williamsburg, April 3, 1761.

Gentn: Before I left home I shipd 18 Hhds. of my Potomack Tobacco on Board the Bland Captn. Hugh Wylie now lying in Rappahannock River on which please to Insure £140 only. This Ship is a Letter of Marque, carry's 18 Six pounders and well Mand for which Reasons I do not secure the full value of my Tobacco by Insurance judging by the same parity of Reasoning that the Premio will also be moderate. The Ship will not Sail till the last of the Month at soonest you need be in no hurry therefore to make the Insurance unless a favourable Crises offers. I shall have about 10 or a dozen Hhds. more to send you from the same River which is all I can spare your House from Potomack this year so much short of expectation has my Crops fallen; the greater pains imaginable has been used in the management of this Tobacco which is one essential cause of the quantity falling short but I expect the price you may procure will at least be adequate thereto. Please to note that this Tobo. is to go to my own particular Credit.

I woud not have you be hasty in selling this or any of the Tobo. I may Ship you this year unless a very good Market presents itself, for confident I am that the small quantity of Tobo. made last year must command a very good price when the Fact once becomes well ascertaind. I wish heartily for Boyces arrival having kept my Tobo. longer than I chose in expectation of your sending a Ship; I suppose I shall have (as I once before wrote you) about 30 Hhds. of my own and 40 of my Wards ready to put on board him from York River, but of this you will be more fully Advertised after his. arrival if it happens while I am here. Your friends no doubt will endeavour to dispatch him as soon as possible but there are a great number of Ships in the Country at this time solliciting Freight (which is much fallen) many

of which I am well convincd cannot get Loaded at any rate. I am at a loss to conceive the Reason why Mr. Wormeleys, and indeed some other Gentlemen's Tobacco's shoud sell at 12d last year and mine by Boyce only fetch 11½, (and that I am certain of for no more than a part having Accts. of only 4 Hhds). Certain I am no Person in Virginia takes more pains to make their Tobo. fine than I do and tis hard then I shoud not be as well rewarded for it.

Yours of the 12th. Decr. covering H. Churchills protested Bill is come to hand so is your other of the 26th. pt. Coolage who is safe arrived. I am very much obligd to you for the Notice taken of my recommendation of Mr. Dandridges Affair, I hope the matter will be accomplishd without much Difficulty. I am Gentn. etc.

***To JAMES GILDART**

Williamsburg, April 3, 1761.

Sir: Several of your favours now lye before me, but the last of Novr. 9th. I shall particularly take notice of. With astonishment then did I receive the Account of Sales of that Hhd. Tobo. pr. the Everton where only £8 4.1¼. is rendered for it at the sametime that Mr. Cary was selling the like Tobo. at £17 and 18£ a Hhd. As to the exceptions which for two or three years past you have made to the quality of the Tobacco, give me leave to say Sir 'tis altogether inconsistent. We continue the same management as usual, and the Tobo. Consignd you has been made at the same Plantations, by the same hands, and under the same Overseers as that sent Mr. Cary. No picking or choosing of Hhds has ever been allowd of, but promiscuously taken for both as the Ships had a demand for it; he never gives less than twelve but generally Sixteen pounds a Hhd. 'tis unreasonable therefore to expect I can continue a Corrispondance under such obvious Disadvantages. I am Sir, etc.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Mount Vernon, July 5, 1761.

Gentn: The Fleet is arrivd but some Ships are, missing among which number Captn. Jno. Johnston happens to be one, and a report prevails that he is taken, but from whence it arises I really cant say. I believe it is conjecture only, but at the sametime I must observe it is a conjecture founded upon very probable Circumstances, since the fleet has been in 14 or 15 days and no Accounts of him.

Receiving my Goods so late in the year as this is, is attended with many disadvantages, but it will proove a real misfortune to me if they shoud now be lost. In this Event I beg that you will upon the first certain advice of it, have others, exactly agreeable to my former Orders, Shipd by the first Vessell bound to this, or Rappa: River. I have no doubts of my Goods being Insurd; but this, altho it is some recompense in regard to the Expence it is none as to the Disappointment.

By Captn. Coverdale (the Ships name I really do not know, however She is in Mr. Bacons employ) I send you Eleven Hhds more of my Potomack Tobacco, on which please to ensure no more than Eighty pounds. In this you will perceive I follow the same Conduct as I did by the Bland Captn. Wylie, that is, to risque a part. I cannot say exactly when this Ship will Sail, but dare believe not till sometime in August perhaps the first of that Month.

The Sudden Notice I got of this oppertunity, and little time allowd to write in, will not suffer me to descend to particulars, I shall therefore inform you only, that Boyce arrivd sometime ago, and that I directed my Steward on York River to Order the Delivery of the Tobo. I promised you in my Letter of

the 3d. of Apl. I dont doubt but they are on board by this time, and as soon as I get advice of it you shall be informd, that Insurance may be made thereon. I am Gentn., etc.

(Sent pr. Captn. Baynes, London)

***To RICHARD WASHINGTON**

Mount Vernon, July 14, 1761.

Dear Sir: Since my last by Mr. Fairfax, I have had the pleasure of receiving your obliging layouts of the 16th October and first of January following. A Mixture of bad Health and Indolence together, has kept me from paying that due respect to your Letters which I am sure they much merited at my hands, till this time, and now, having nothing to relate that coud in any wise claim your attention I think I was Inclind to a further delay when it came into my head that having put Six Hhds Tobo. on Board the Phœnex Captn. McGachin to your Address it woud not be amiss to secure some part of the Value by Insurance, that in case the Ship shoud meet with the Fate attending many others in the same Trade I might not loose the whole, and therefore Sir, I beg the favour of you to Insure Five pounds a Hhd on the Tobo Accordingly.

The entire Conquest of Canada, and dispossession of the French in most parts of North America becoming a Story too stale to relate in these days we are often at a loss for something to supply our Letters with.

True it is the Cherokee Nation by a perfidious Conduct has causd Colo. Grant to be sent once more into their Country with an Armd Force but I believe their Supplies from the French on Mobile River come in so Slack that they are more sincerely disposd to Peace now than ever they were before.

This Publick turn may be causd in some Measure too by another Regiment in the Pay of this Colony which is ordered to penetrate into their Country by another Passage, but it is generally thought their Submission will put a stop to any further progress of our Arms.⁴¹

We have receivd the Account of Belleiles reduction, and hear of another Expedition Fleet destind for some Service of which we are Ignorant: but that which most engrosses our Attention at this time is the Congress at Augsburg as I believe nothing is more sincerely desird in this part of the World than an honourable Peace.

Colo. Fairfax very much Surprizes his Friends in Virginia by not writing to any of them. Just upon his arrival at London he favoured a few with a short Letter advertising them of that agreeable Circumstance and I have heard of no other Letter that has come from him since altho' I have seen some from the Ladies the Superscription of which has been in his hand-Writing. I am &c.

Sent by the Potomack via Glasgow Copy pt. the Sarah— Captn. Coverdale.

41. Colonel Grant had an engagement with the Cherokees, near the place of Colonel Montgomery's ambuscade, which lasted for several hours, but the Indians were repulsed, He then destroyed all the villages and provisions that came in his way and took post for some time in Fort Prince George. Here the Cherokees, through their chief, Attakulla-kulla, sued for peace, which was conceded to them, and which continued till the breaking out of the Revolutionary War.— *Sparks*.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Mount Vernon, August 1, 1761.

Gentn. When I wrote to you on the 14th Ult. neither your Letters nor my Goods by Captn. Johnston were come to hand, now both are receivd; and I must beg leave to point out some mistakes which I have discoverd in them, and first in regard to the Accounts which you sent. In these there are several Errors which need rectifying as you will perceive by perusing the Inclosd Accounts. Copied from my Books, but taken in a manner altogether from your own writings; for it is to be observd here, that the Estate is debited for some Articles which ought to be placed to me, and for some others which shoud go to Account of Master Custis. You will likewise perceive that both the Estate and I, are chargd with the Goods sent by Captn. Yates amounting to £151.5.10 and that I have given you credit for a Draft in fav'r of Wm. Clifton for Thirty pounds imagining it was paid as the Bill passd my hands sometime before that of Brents did; these sev'l Alterations being made the Ballances will stand

against G. Washington £1871.8.8 against Jno. P. Custis 144.0.6 against M. P. Custis 54.7.2 £2069.16.4 and in favour of the Estate 2038.8.4 so that the Ball'e due you upon the whole will be only £ 31.8.0

After you have made these necessary alterations the Accts. may remain as stated till it be known in what manner the Estate Ball'e will be disposd of, and this I fancy will be determined at our next General Court in October; having some hopes of getting a finish put to these matters at that time; however you shall be timely advisd whenever any of these alterations happens.

I have now to inform you of a very great mistake which you have committed in sending me 2 doz. Whip saws, when I only wanted, and wrote for two; what I shall do with the abundant overplus I really know

not as I apprehend it will be a difficult matter to dispose of such a quantity in this part of the Country. And here while I am mentioning his Affair, another thing occurs which must not escape unnoticed; and that is, A Case bought of Phil Bell at the price of 17 Guineas. Surely, here must be as great a mistake, or as great an Imposition as ever was offerd by a Tradesman. The Case is a plain one, and such as I could get made in this Country (where Work of all kinds is very dear) of the same stuff, and equally as neat for less than four Guineas; is it possible then that 16 Gall'n Bottles with ground Stoppers can cost 13 Guineas? I think I might safely answer No. I would have sent it back immediately, but being convinced that there must be some mistake in the Case I have postponed that resolution till you can make a proper enquiry into it, and advise me thereon.

Please to order me a Pipe of good old Maderia from that Island, let it be well secured, and direct it to be sent by some Vessel bound to this River (Potomack). Your Correspondants in Liverpool, I must beg leave to say, are a little negligent of your Orders and I am the Sufferer by it; for I have never received any Salt from thence notwithstanding my repeated Application's for these two years past. I am Gentn., etc.

Sent by the Sarah Captn. Coverdale

Copy pr. the Phonex Captn. McGachin

Aug. 6 Postscript to the above Letter. Since writing the above, I have found occasion to draw a Bill upon you to the amt. of £259 Sterg., payable at Sixty days sight to Messrs. Chs. Graham, Win. Fitzhugh, and Benja. Fendall. It being the Consid'n Money of Sundry Slaves w'ch I bought of those Gentn. Yesterday. I hope the Bill will meet with due Acceptance and I am as before, Gentn. etc.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Mount Vernon, September 23, 1761.

Gentn: An Indisposition which I have been under 3 or 4 Months, induced me to take a trip Northward to try the effects of Exercise and our Mountain Air upon my disorder. I find some benefit from the journey, but not returning till within these few days I came too late to make out and send my Invoices by the Fleet; however no disappointment of Goods will follow from thence I hope because

there will be frequent opportunities of sending Letters by Single Ships all the Winter as many remain behind not being able to get loaded so as to Sail with Convoy.

The Intent of this Letter is to desire the favour of you to send me 12 Bushels of the true red Ray grass Seed; or more properly red Darnel. There is two or three different kinds of this Seed; that is to say, there be of it the red and white, of the Ray grass or Darnel kind; and there is another sort commonly calld (as the whole indeed is) Rye grass, this is a filthy kind and ought to be rooted out of all Places, and is the Reason why I am so particular in order to avoid getting it here because the similitude of the Names, and oftentimes the ignorance of the Seedsman is such, as to cause a good deal of confusion and disappointment in these matters. I must also beg the favour of you to send me two Bushels of Hop cloverseed, and the like quantity of Tares; please to direct that the Seeds be all fresh and good, and sent by the first Vessel bound to this River which I expect will be a convict Ship⁴³ of Stuarts and Compay. Commanded by Captn. McGachin, an Acquaintance of mine, who I am perswaded will readily take them in, and give them a proper birth upon a hint of the probability of their Spoiling in the Hold. I am Gentn., etc.

N.B. Sent by Captn. Baker to Bristol

Copy by Captn. Marshall Liverpool

43. The old English law provided for confining convicts on ships which sailed the seas instead of lying at anchor as did the hulks and galleys.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Mount Vernon, October 12, 1761.

Gentn: Herewith you will receive sundry invoices for Goods wanted, those for my own and the Childrens use please to send by Captn. Johnston or the first Vessell bound for this River in the Spring. Mrs. Dandridges must go in a Ship for York. I cannot make out an Account of the necessarys which may be wanting for my own and Master Custis's Plantations on York River till I go down there which will happen in a fortnights time, and then I shall address you again.

Your Letter of June the 2d. I receivd a few days ago and Note the Contents of it. If my Tobacco, contrary to expectations, shoud not answer for the best Market please to point out the Reasons that I may regulate accordingly for I am more anxious about the quality than quantity of what I Ship I have directed Mr. Valentine to be very careful in the management of their present Crop, and in

a particular manner have cautioned him in their Prizing that Bruising and other ill effects may be prevented for the time to come. 20 Guineas is a very great insurance, a Person had better risque the loss themselves than part with so large a proportion of the years produce to secure the rest and I believe I shall do it for the future should the War continue. I was very sorry for the Advantage obtained by the Dutch in the Article of Stocks, I think they should have met with other guess treatment, not only on this but on many other occasion's for their conduct in the course of the War.

Mr. Magowan⁴⁴ Tutor to Master and Miss Custis having occasion of a small London Bill I drew upon you in his favour the 9th. Instt. for Sixteen pounds Sterling which when paid must be charged to their respective Accts. equally

44. Rev. Walter Magowan. He, later, had a charge at Herring Bay, Md.

that is £8 to each. I hope by the time this gets to your hands you will be happy in an honourable, and permanent Peace; this I believe is become the pretty sincere desire of most People, but of none more than Gentlemen, etc.

By the Unity Captn. Robson for London

Copy King of Prussia Glassford Glasgow

***To JOHN DIDSBURY**

Mount Vernon, October 12, 1761

Sir: Inclosd you have my Measure for Boots; please there fore to send me two pair of them; one of which made of stout strong Leather for Winters use, the other pair to be light and thin for Summer; both pair Shoe Boots; likewise send me two pair of real turnd Pumps and four pair of neat, but at the sametime strong Shoes. Mr. Cary will pay the amount and I am Sir, etc.

***To RICHARD WASHINGTON**

Mount Vernon, October 20, 1761.

Dear Sir: Since my last of the 14th. July I have in appearance been very near my last gasp; the Indisposition then spoken of Increased upon me and I fell into a very low and dangerous State. I

once thought the grim King would certainly master my utmost efforts and that I must sink in spite of a noble struggle but thank God I have now got the better of the disorder and shall soon be restored I hope to perfect health again.

I don't know that I can muster up one tittle of News to communicate, in short the occurrences of this part of the World are at present scarce worth reciting for as we live in a state of peaceful tranquility ourselves, so we are at very little trouble to enquire after the operations against the Cherokees who are the only People that disturbs the repose of this great Continent and who I believe would gladly accommodate Differences upon almost any Terms not I conceive from any Apprehensions they are under on account of Our Arms but because they want the Supplies which we, and we only, can furnish them with. We catch the reports of Peace with gaping Mouths, and every Person seems anxious for a confirmation of that desirable Event provided it comes, as no doubt it will, upon honourable terms.

On the other side is an Invoice of cloathes which I beg the favour of you to purchase for me and to send them by the first Ship bound to this River. As they are designed for Wearing Apparel for myself I have committed the choice of them to your fancy, having the best opinion of your taste. I want neither Lace nor Embroidery; plain Cloathes with a gold or Silver Button (if worn in genteel Dress) is all I desire. I have hitherto had my Cloathes made by one Charles Lawrence in old Fish Street but whether it be the fault of the Taylor, or the Measure sent I can't say but certain it is my Cloathes have never fitted me well. I therefore leave the choice of the Workman to your care likewise. I enclose a Measure and for a further

Insight I don't think it amiss to add that my stature is six feet; otherwise rather slender than Corpulent. I am sincerely, etc.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Williamsburg, November 3, 1761.

Gentl: I came to this place last Night, and find that the Articles contain'd in the Inclosed Invoices are wanted for mine and Master Custis's Plantation's on York River, please therefore to send them as there directed and charge the amounts to our respective Accounts.

We have little or no News stirring, our Assembly is at present Convend to grant Supplies for carrying on the War against the Cherokee Indian's should they choose to continue it, but this I am perswaded they are by no means Inclind to do, nor are they prepar'd for it as they have been solliciting Peace for

sometime past. I wish the Powers of Europe were as well disposd to an Accomodation as these poor Wretches are a stop woud soon be put to the Effusion of Human Blood and Peace and plenty woud resume its Empire again to the joy and content (I believe) of most Ranks and degrees of People. I am Gentn., etc.

Sent By the Liverpool Captn. Birch for Liverpool

Copy Gave Mr. James Hunter of Fredericksburg

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Mount Vernon, March 16, 1762.

Gentn.: A Relation and Friend of mine having desired me to send for a Post Chariot for him, I now do it in the Words of, his own Mem'm which are as follows.

Colo. Washington to send for a neat light Post Chariot for F.L. of a price not exceeding One hundred pounds Sterling and to have light Harness for Six Horses. To desire the favour of the Merchant not to let the Tradesman know it is to be sent abroad. To have it made of well Seasoned Wood and painted of a genteel and fashionable colour without any Arms; and to be Insured."

The Gentleman at the time of his giving me this Mem'm was not provided with an Impression of his Arms about him, but if I shoud receive it timously I will inclose it by the next oppertunity. You will please to order the Chariot so soon as finished by the first Ship bound to Rappahannock River, and direct it to be sent to Colo. Fielding Lewis at Fredericksburg who has promised to lodge a Bill of Excha: with me for the cost and Charges so soon as he is informed thereof which Bill I shall immediately remit to you; in the meantime make me answerable for the amount.

By the Unity Captn. Couzens I am now Shipping Twenty Hhds. of my Potomack Tobacco on which please to Insure One hundred and Fifty pounds only. It is expected this Vessell will Sail with Convoy about the first of June next your Insurance therefore may be made Accordingly. I am, Gentn. etc.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Mount Vernon, May 28, 1762.

Gentlemen: Your unacknowledged favours of the 26th June; 10th. Augt.; 16 and 19th. Septn. and the 19th. of Octr. following now lye before [me]; in that one of Augt. 10th. I perceive you bring the

shortness of some of the Bundles of the Tobo. Shipped in the Bland to acct. for the lowness of the Price. That some of the Tobo. was small I shall not undertake to dispute, but at the sametime I must observe that it was clean and neatly handled which I apprehended woud have rendered the other objection of very little weight. As to stemming my Tobo. in the manner you recommend I woud readily do it if the returns woud be equivalent to the trouble, and loss of the stem, and of this I shall be a tolerable judge as I am at no small pains this year to try the quality with the advantages and disadvantages of deferent kinds of Tobos. and shall at the sametime find out the difference between a hhd. of Leaf and a hhd. of stemrod Tobo., by comparing then the loss of the one with the extra price of the other I shall be able to determine which is the best to pursue and follow that method which promises the most certain advantages.

Some of the Tobo. which I put on board the Unity Captn. Cuzzens got damaged in carrying to the Warehouses for Inspection and had a part cut of which will no doubt deface a little but as this happened while I was at Williamsburg I am able to give you no exact Information concerning it. In this parcel of Tobo. there are three kinds which please to give me your opinions upon; No. 1 to 6 Inclusive are of one kind, from 9 to 14 are of another, and 15 and 16 are of a third sort; the rest are of the same kinds of these three but made on other Plantations.

As I have ever laid it down as an established Maxim to believe, that every person is, (most certainly ought to be) the best judges of what relates to their own Interest and concerns I very rarely undertake to propose Schemes to others which may be attended with uncertainty and miscarriage; this will at once acct. for my being among the last who shoud advise

your sending a Vessell into Potomack for the accomodation of your Friends there. That I have often thought of it as a desirable thing for the Shippers, I will readily confess and have as often concluded that so soon as you found an established consignment formed here you woud do it of course; and sooner we ought not to expect it. Since you have proposed the matter yourself to me, I certainly must approve of it, and as you are so obliging to write that you shall direct the Master to be under my notice I hope you will be petswaded to believe that I shall readily contribute my best advice and assistance towards his dispatch. The Tobacco's most of your friends upon Potomack (or that Ships from thence) lyes within 15 Miles above and below this place, and as good, or the best harbour (Piscataway) is within sight of my Door. It has this great advantage besides good Anchorage and laying safe from the Winds that it is out of the way of the Worm which is very hurtful to Shipping a little lower down and lyes in a very plentiful part of the Country. I thought it incumbant upon me to mention these things after which do as you please. If I had receiv'd any Intimation of your sending a Vessell into this River I shoud not have engaged any part of my Tobo. to Cuzzens, and while I remain

in expectation of her arrival will not seek a freight else where for the residue of what I intend your house from this River which probably may amount to about 30 hhds. more.

My Letter of the 25th. of Jany. will inform you how the Interest of the Bank stock is to be applied, as that fund was appropriated towards the payment of Miss Custis's Fortune I am informed that the Stock ought to be transferred to her, you will please therefore to have done accordingly and what ever charges may arise in so doing place to her own Acct. I hope Messrs. Hill and Co. will send the Wine into this River for I had rather have it in Madeira than York.

Thus far had I wrote and was going to conclude when your favour of the 18th. Jany. was presented to me;

I am sorry to hear the Accts given of the Tobo. Shipped in Boyes but as you don't particularize the proprietor's names who suffered most I am in hopes my 70 hhds. have pretty well escaped the genl. complaint. If it has not I confess it to be an Art beyond my skill, to succeed in making good Tobo. as I have used my utmost endeavours for that purpose this two or 3 years past; and am once again urged to express my surprize at finding that I do not partake of the best prices that are going; I saw an Acct. rendered by Mr. Athaws of some Tobo. which he sold for Mr. Fairfax at 12½d. the Tobo. went from this River and I can aver was not better than 12 hhds. of my Mount'n Crop which you receivd in the Sarah and Bland last Summ'r. In fact Mr. Fairfax's Plantation's and mine upon Shannondoah lye in the same neighbourhood. The Tobo brought to the same Inspection, and to be short, is in all respects exactly alike, none of mine however sold for more than 11d. or 3½, which you please while his went of a little before at the price of 12½ aforesaid; this is a difference really too great and I see it with concern, however Gentlemen I hope to find it otherwise for the time to come. I am, etc.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Mount Vernon, June 20, 1762.

Gentn.: The other side contains a Copy of my last, since which I have received from Messrs. Hill, Lamar and Hill a pipe of Wine price in Madeira £30.16. Sterl: for which they value upon you, I have also received advice of Seventy Sacks of Salts coming into Rappa. River from Mr. Backhouse on my Acct. Mr. Lewis who gives this Information has promised to send it round but the expences and trouble attending this is so great that I had almost as soon have Goods in any part of Great Britain as in any River except the one on which I live.

We have had one of the most severe Droughts in these parts that ever was known and without a speedy Interposition of Providence (in sending us moderate and refreshing Rains to Molifie and soften the Earth) we shall not make one oz of Tobacco this year. Our Plants in spite of all our efforts to the contrary are just destroyed, and our grain is absolutely perishing, how it may be in other parts of the Country I can not postively say, yet I have heard much complaining, shoud it be with Reason of which you can guess by the Letters of your different corrispondants I am perswaded you will be in no haste to dispose of the Tobo. I have put on board the Unity shoud it get safe to hand, with the Convoy with whom (the Chesterfield) She is to Sail sometime this Month. The London fleet is not yet arrived nor have we any Accts. of it. I shall take the first oppertunity that offers of writing to you again on these heads, In the meantime I remain, Gentn. etc.

Sent by the Alexandria, Captn. Cranford, Glasgow

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Mount Vernon, September 18, 1762.

Gentn: The Inclosed is a Copy of my last for Insurance on Tobacco's as therein mentioned. I have now to acknowledge the receipt of your favours of April the 10th. and 1st. of May following, accompanying my Goods in the Unity which came regularly to hand (and without damage) except the box of Shoes (said to be sent to Portsmouth) these have never yet appeared, nor do I know to whom to apply for them, as no Bill of Lading was forwarded, nor mention made in what Ship they were put; Captn. Robson disavows any such coming to him. There must likewise have been a mistake in Shipping the Plows, for many of, the most material parts being wanting, the rest, according to the Bill of Parcells, is entirely useless, and lye upon my hands a dead charge.

I am sorry to find that in spite of my utmost care and caution we fail in the Sales of our Tobaccos, and that the ? & D. P. C. is brought into such low esteem as to sell for export at 3½ pr. lb., a practise and price never known till now. True I cannot, at the distance I live from York River, see to the management of the Tobacco in all its process, but as it is made under the usual director, and in the usual manner, and moreover as I am assured by the Inspectors that it is of the same quality and kind as formerly, I own I am a surprized at the alteration of price indeed I shoud be more than a little so did I not know, that the Crops made in 1760 of which the 70 hhds. pr. Boyes was part were generally mean, occasioned by the incessant Rains that fell in the course of that Summer. You now Gentn. have Thirty two hhds of mine, and fifty nine of Master Custis's Tobacco Shipped in the Nautilus and Brunswick, which I hope will come to a better Market than the last and before I quit this Subject I

must beg the favour of you to direct the Master of your York River Ship to be more cautious in his promises for the time to come, or a little stricter in

adhering to them, because for want of one of these I was very near having 40 hhds. of my Tobo. left in the Country, Captn. Boyes punctually promising my steward (as he writes me) to take all the Tobacco which I had ordered for you, namely 94 hhds.; and when it came to the test refused 42 of them leaving him, short as the time was, to seek else where for a freight: now had the Captn. informed him, or me at first, that he woud only take such a quantity, no harm woud have been done or disappointment happened for then I could easily have added to my Consignment to Messrs. Hanbury and others. The case I must beg leave to observe, is different with me from most other's of your Corrispondants on York River because upon the arrival of the Fleet I direct my Steward in what manner he is to dispose of the Tobacco and in case of disappointments I am not upon the Spot to alter and change as Circumstances may require but must be subject to inconvenience, from the distance which others can easily extricate themselves from; besides, as I always have taken care to fulfil my own engagements with the Captns. and shall continue so to do with punctuality I must expect in return the same strict observance from whom ever I deal with. I have been induced to run into a more particular recital of this matter now, as it is the Second or third time I have been trifled with by the Master or manager of your Ships here, and therefore with more confidence shall ask your excuse for the trouble I have given you in this place. In expectation of the Latitia's arrival, I have refused such of my Potomack Tobacco as was intended for you, to other Ships upon Liberty by which means I shall miss the Convoy, and enhance the Insurance I fear.

With certainty I think I can venture to assure you now, that the Crops of Tobacco made in the Country this year must be short, experimentally I can say so of my own upon this River, and my Steward gives me no great hopes of expecting a better prospect on York; Tobacco must therefore I conceive sell well in consequence of the reduction. These things entirely disconcerts my intended experiments, mentioned in a Letter of the 28th. of May, for I have not succeeded in any one sort of Tobacco which I then pur-

-posed to plant and my whole Crop fails short by at least one half, of the usual Compliment.

My Letter of the 11th. will inform you of Captn. Cuzzens return, please therefore to judge of the expediency of making fresh Insurance or not, and act accordingly. I apprehend that your Insurance woud run with Convoy, being so advised, and of course stand for nothing as She was obliged to Sail with out, after waiting a considerable time for the Chesterfield Man of War. Among the Goods sent in for Miss Custis (by the Unity there came a black Callimanca Petticoat and full trimmed Night Gown of a straw coloured Lustring marked MPC. but as they were of Womens size, and not charged in her Account we concluded they must bepacked up by mistake; and as some expence and risque woud

accompany a return of them Mrs. Washington will keep them herself, and the cost please to place to my acct.

I cannot Inclose my Invoices at this time because I have not yet got an acct. of the necessaries wanted for our Plantation's on York River, so soon as this comes to hand, and I every day expect it, the whole shall be forwarded. I am Gentn., etc.

Sent Via New York by Colo. Carlye.

***To BEVERLEY ROBINSON⁴⁷**

Mount Vernon, Septem er 27, 1762.

Dear Sis': Collo. Carlye, the bearer of this, going to New York to dispose of some English Horses which he has been encouraged to carry thither, affords me the best of oppertunity's to present my Compliments to your Lady, self, and Family and to ask how you have all done during an Interval of 3 or 4 years spent in profound silence with each other; tho' not without constant enquiries on my side after a family from who I have received such distinguishing marks of Civility.

I have been told that refined Sugar and Spirma-ceti Candles come at very easy rates from New York if you will please therefore to accept of a small Corn: from me I woud beg the favour of you to send me

200 weight of Sugar

2 Boxes Spirma-ceti Candles

2 Boxes white Bisquet—not buttered and

3 Barrels of best Apples

few oppertunitys I conceive will happen directly to Alexandria (near to w'ch place I live) but many probably may offer to Norfolk with which place we have a constant Intercourse be so good then Sir as to direct them to the care of Collo. Tucker, or any of your corrispondants there, and let me know the method in which it woud be most agreeable to pay you and it shall be punctually observed.

We have little or no domestick News; none however at this time that can give entertainment, and all other kinds which comes to our knowledge is thro' your Chan'l. I have only to desire therefore that

you will please to accept of my sincere good wishes for yourself and Family and that you will make a tender of my best respects to Mrs. Philips, and Mrs. Morris⁴⁸ when you see her. I am Dr. Sir, etc.

47. A merchant in New York City at this time.

48. Mrs. Philipse, mother of Mary Philipse, who was then Mrs. Roger Morris.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Mount Vernon, September 30, 1762.

Gentn: Since mine of 18th. the Latitia is arrived, and the box of Shoes for Miss Custis come to hand; but of so small a size as not to fit her.

I have already directed Thirty one Hhds. of my Tobacco to be put on board of that Ship, on which please to make Insurance in such a manner as to receive eight pounds pt. hhd. in case of loss. Her arrival at the juncture she did, was fortunate (since she did not come sooner) for Collo. Lee⁴⁹ it seems had just Chartered a Vessell for the accomodation of himself and Friends which, had the Contract gone into execution, might have been hurtful in many respects: I have not yet seen Captn. Hammond, nor do I know what may be his dependance on that Gentleman; but this I am confidant of, that much Tobacco which he might have commanded at a proper time is now disposed of in other bottoms; for his coming was so late, and arrival so precarious, that few People chose to risque the advantages of the expected Convoy the 20th. past. A Convoy which seems now to have vanished as the Man of War did in June last; and our Ships left to depart by themselves, or wait upon Charges and uncertainty, for what never may happen. It is hoped however, that the Latitia can meet with no great delay since Collo. Lee in consequence of his Chartering the Peggy, and asking my Tobacco for her, wrote me, that if Hammond shoud arrive, which he did not expect, there woud still be Tobacco enough left to Load him; this I suppose he advanced upon good foundation, and therefore no disappointment one woud think, coud happen in his dispatching of one Vessell.

In a Letter of the 6th. of August to Messrs. Mayne, Burne and Mayne's, Merchts. in Lisbon I desired them to send me a Pipe of that Wine, and draw upon you for the value;

49. Col. George Lee, who married Ann Fairfax Washington.

I expect also to have occasion for another Pipe of Madeira in a very little time, but as I shall write to a different house (than Hill's) for it, you will be advised of my order so soon as it Issues for the Wine.

Yours of the 31st. of May, Inclosing the Sales of 21 hhds. D. P. C. is come to hand, and your next will probably transmit an acct. of the remaining ? , and D. P. C.⁵⁰ ; what you have done in regard to the 2 hhds. of G. W. is very agreeable, and I hope Mr. Giles the purchaser will be a gainer by it.

Upon the Important Conquest of the Hayanna, I heartily congratulate you; a stroke so signally given at the commencement of a War must ever prove the sure means of humbling a proud People and settling Peace upon an honourable and Permanent footing; that this soon may happen is a sincere wish of Gentn., etc.

Sent to the Northward—to go by Packet

Copy by the Hudson—Via Whitehaven

50. These letters (D. P. C., and G. W.) were merely arbitrary invoice marks that distinguished certain hogsheads of tobacco.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Williamsburg, November 15, 1762.

Gentn: As I got to this place after the Fleet Sailed, I am obliged to make use of a Scotch Ship bound to Glasgow to forward the Inclosed Invoices for Goods, which please to send, and charge as there directed.

I am left in a very odd situation in regard to the Tobacco which I kept for, and expected had gone in, the Latitia, many opportunities I refused of putting it on board other Ships that offered liberty of Consignment because I woud not be instrumental tho' but in a small degree towards the disappointment of the Vessel you might send to us, and now Captn. Hammond is not only gone without it (after I have directed Insurance to be made, and actually saw the Tobacco put into Craft which Collo. Lee sent up for it) but I do not even know what is become of the Tobacco for Collo. Lee who seemed to take upon himself the management of these matters is not yet come to Town and I have only bare report for his having put it on board of some other Ship; but what Ship, and whether she went with Convoy, or is yet in the Country I am a stranger to, this matter carries evident Marks of

ill usage however, but on whom to fix the blame I am as yet, a little at a loss to determine, time may shew.

I find my own Crops (and those of my Ward) on this River something better than I was given to expect and hope the Tobacco, what there is of it, will proove exceeding good this year; but my Tobacco on Potomack as formerly mentioned will fall greatly short of the usual Quantity. I was not a little surprized to find, upon coming to this place, that there was nothing in the report of the Unity's putting back by distress of Weather, as I had informed you in two or three Letters. The advice of her doing so came to me through such a Channel, that I could not conceive a posi-

-bility of doubting it; and therefore gave you the earliest notice I could of it. I shall expect soon to hear what has become of that Tobacco, and to get the Sales of all such as was Shipped last year.

I have drawn upon you (the 9th. Instt.) for Twenty pounds Sterling, payable to Mr. Walter Magowan Tutor to Master and Miss Custis, which Sum is to be paid by the Children equally, and to them respectively charged. I am Gentn., etc.

***To CAPEL AND OSGOOD HANBURY**

Williamsburg, April 26, 1763.

Gentn: Your favours of the 24th. of April 29th. July and first of December now lye before me, and I could heartily have Wished that the last had brought an Acct. of the Tobaccos lost in the Deliverance and Joseph which remains along while I think in an underterminate manner.

You will please to observe that the 20 Hhds pr. the Deliverance is part of the Estate of Danl. Parke Custis Esqr. deceased, because it was made and Shipped before a Devision of it took place therefore when that matter is adjusted must have credit for the Tobacco, and made chargeable with the Costs; but the 14 hhds in Easton were made after the said Division and was the Sole property of Master John Parke Custis, for whom you are to raise an Acct. beginning with the premium of Insurance and other charges of this 14 hhds, and to be credited by the proceeds; the other 12 hhds pr. Captn. Lewis you have already been informed were the young Gentlemans and I shall take care at all times to advise you in this particular that no mistakes may arise.

Business brot. me to this place a few days ago and havg. seen Captn. Easton I have given directions for putting Twelve hhds Tobo. on board his Ship to your address on which please to Insure Ten pounds pr. Hhd in behalf of Mastr. Custis whose Tobo. it is, and to whose acct. it must go.

We are much pleased with the assurance of Peace, things it is hoped will now fall into an easy and regular Channel to the mutual advantage of both Mercht. and Planter. I am Gentn., etc.

By the Betsy Captn. Car.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Williamsburg, April 26, 1763.

Gentn: My Letters of the 18th. and 30th. of Septr. and 15th Novr. following fully explains my sentiments relative to the Tobacco's lately Shipped, and other matters therein mentioned, but I have your favours of the 10th. and 25th. of August 30th. of Octor. and 4th. of Decr. now lying before me, and shall remark upon; and answer such parts of them as require it.

In regard to the Estates Ball'e then in your hands, I must observe, that it was not in my power to direct the Application of it sooner, because some of those Tobaccos lay in Messrs. Hanbury's, and other's in Mr. Gildarts hands unaccounted for; the want of which Sales, and some other Ballances due to and from the Estate not coming in so soon as might have been expected kept open the Accts. and prevented an exact dividend of the money; and is a Reason why that Ball'e has remained so long undisposed of on your Books; indeed there is yet 34 hhds of Tobo. which was lost in the Deliverance and Joseph (Ships of Messrs. Hanbury's) of which no Accts. are rendered and retards a final Devision, but I have now caused the money so far as it can be ascertained, to be divided, and a Sum of £1440-19s.11 Sterlg. fall'g to Master Custis's part I shall allot it to him out of the money in your Hands, you will please therefore to give his Acct. credit for the said Sum of £1440.19s. 11 Ster: and carry the residue thereof to my Acct. which will Ball'e the Estates Acct. on your Books. My debt is greater than I expected to have found it, owing in some measure to the short prices of my Tobacco but I shall endeavour to discharge it as fast as I can conveniently make remittances.

In your Letter of the 30th. of Octr. I find you have entirely mistaken the meaning of mine of the

28th. of May giving an Acct. of the qualities of the Tobacco Shipped in the Unity: if you will be at the trouble of reading that Letter over again, you will perceive that I take notice of 3 sorts of Tobo. under such and such numbers, for Instance, from No. 1 to No. 6 Inclusive I tell you is of one kind, from 9 to 14 of another, and 15 to 16 are of a third; and then observe, that the rest of the Tobacco is of the same sorts of these 3, only made on different Plantation's; this I did with a view of getting your opinion on the several sorts, that by comparing the produce of each kind here. with the Sales with you, determine my choice of them, the ground yielding more of some sorts than it does of others;

but it is very observable that the narrow leaf Tobo. (for the Hhd. No. 10, 13 and 19 noticed in yours of Octr. the 30th. are of that kind) hits not your taste, nor do I much wonder at it for it was a sort planted by mistake, and altogether without my approbation, and I am so unlucky as to have some of it this year again mixed with the others.

I do not like to recriminate on a Subject and shall therefore observe in few words, that Collo. Fairfax's Tobo. which Mr. Athaws sold at 12d. was no more than leaf, and of the same kind exactly with No. 15 and 16 of mine by the Unity; I could conceive no reason therefore why his Tobacco should so far out sell mine, even that of York River which has always been esteemed for its quality, however I shall dwell no longer on the matter, but rest perswaded that you will exert your best endeavours for my Interest, more especially as you must be sensible, that I have in a manner confined my correspondance to your House alone, and with this assurance, that I am not fond of change and want nothing but justice; so long then as I meet with good Accts. and neighbourly fare I shall continue my Consignments, and farther I dare say you cannot expect.

The Ship which carried the Tobacco that was reserved for Hammond was called the Thomas one Captn.

Agar, Master but whether she is arrived or not I cannot tell, for She missed the Convoy; before I leave this place I shall direct my Steward in what manner he is to dispose of his Tobacco, and from myself and Ward I suppose you may expect about 75 Hhds.; near 30 of which will be Shipped on my own Acct. but of this you will be more particularly informed when I get advise of the arrival of the Ship, what qty of Tobo. I may have on Potomack is yet uncertain, but in a little time I shall be able to determine.

By the first opportunity to Madeira I shall Write to Messrs. John and James Searles for a Pipe of Wine, directing them to draw upon you for the amount, and hope their Bills will be honoured. The Inclosed to Mr. Lawrence is for a suit of Cloaths which please to send me by the first Ship to either of the Rivers Potomack, York or James; if to one of the two last named, be so good as to direct the Package to the care of Mr. Jos. Valentine at Williamsburg. Mrs. Washington also begs to have 4 yds. of Silk sent according to the Inclosed pattern w'ch was bought in the year 1759 of Palmer & Co. and made into a suit of Cloaths by I Scherberg, but now having occasion to turn it into a Sack and Coat it cannot be effected with't more of the same; this (if to be had) may be sent with my Cloaths.

We are much rejoiced at the prospect of Peace which 'tis hoped will be of long continuance, and introductory of mutual advantages to the Merch't and Planter, as the Trade to this Colony will flow in

a more easy and regular Chan'l than it has done for a considerable time past. The Inclosed Excha on Mr. Thos. Usher for one hund'd pound Sterl. please to receive and place to the Credit of Gentn., etc.

By the Betsy Captn. Car. from Jas. River.

***To CHARLES LAWRENCE**

[Williamsburg], Virginia, April 26, 1763.

Mr. Lawrence: Be pleased to send me a genteel suit of Cloaths made of superfine broad Cloth handsomely chosen. I should have Inclosed you my Measure, but in a general way they are so badly taken here that I am convinced it woud be of very little Service. I woud have you therefore take measure of a Gentleman who Wares well made Cloaths of the following size: to wit, 6 feet high and proportionably made; if any thing rather slender than thick for a person of that highth with pretty long Arms and thighs. You will take care to make the Breeches longer than those you sent me last, and I would have you keep the measure of the Cloaths you now make, by you, and if any alteration is required in my next it shall be pointed out. Mr. Cary will pay your Bill and I am, etc.

Note . for your furth'r governm't and knowledge of my size, I have sent the Inclosed, and you must observe that from the Coat end—

To No 1 & No 3 is the size over the Breast and Hips;

No 2 over the Belly, and

No 4 round the Arm and from the Breeches end

To No *a* is for waistband.

b thick of the Thigh

c upper button hole.

d kneeband and

e for length of Breeches therefore if you take measure of a Person abt 6 feet high of this bigness I think you can't go amiss. You must take notice that the Inclosed is the exact size withr. any allow'e for Seams, &ca.

***To ROBERT STEWART**

April 27, 1763.

My Dear Stewart: Your Letters of the 18th. Jany. and 2d. of Mar. came to my hands at the same time about the 10th. Instr. I knew of no ship then on the point of Sailing for any part of Great Britain, and therefore have been unavoidably silent till now; indeed I could have given but a very unsatisfactory answer before this. I participated in the pleasing prospect which seemed to flatter your wishes about the time of writg. your first Letter, as much as I felt for its reverse in the next, but human Affairs are always chequered, and Viscissitudes in this Life are rather to be expected than wondered at.

I wish my dear Stewart that the circumstances of my Affairs would have permitted me to have given you an order upon any Person, in the world, I might add, for £400 with as much ease and propriety as you seem to require it, or even for twice that Sum if it would make you easy; but alas I to shew my inability in this respect, I inclose you a copy of Mr. Cary's last Acct. curr. against me, which upon my honr and the faith of a Christian is a true one, and transmitted to me with the additional aggravation of a hint at the largeness of it. Messrs. Hanbury's have also a Ball'e against me, and I have no other correspondants in England with whom I deal, unless it be with a namesake for trifles such as Cloaths; and for these I do not know whether the Balle. is for or against me.

This upon my Soul is a genuine Acct. of my Affairs in England, here they are a little better because I am not much in debt. I doubt not but you will be surprized at the badness of their condition unless you will consider under what terrible management and disadvantages I found my Estate when I retired from the Publick Service of this Colony; and that besides some purchases of Lands and Negroes I was neces-

-sitated to make adjoining me (in order to support the Expences of a large Family), I had Provision's of all kinds to buy for the first two or three years; and my Plantation to stock in short with every thing; Buildings to make, and other matters, which swallowed up before I well knew where I was, all the money I got by Marriage nay more, brought me in Debt, and I believe I may appeal to your own knowledge of my Circumstances before.

I do not urge these things my dear Sir in order to lay open the distresses of my own Affairs, on the contrary they should forever have remained profoundly secret to your knowledge did it not appear necessary at this time to acquit myself in your esteem, and to evince my inability of exceeding £300 a sum I am now labouring to procure by getting money to purchase Bills of that amt. to remit to

yourself, that Mr. Cary may have no knowledge of the transaction since he expected this himself, and for which my regard for you will disappoint him. A Regard of that high nature that I could never see you uneasy without feeling a part and wishing to remove the cause; and therefore when you complained of the Mortification of remaining a Subaltern in a Corp you had frequently commanded the Subs of, I wanted you out, and hoped it might be effected; but I shall have done on the Subject giving me leave to add only that in case you should not have a call for the money (and your Letter speaks of this) you will then be so good as to pay it to Mr. Cary to whom I believe it will be no disagreeable tender and advise me thereof; the Inclosed will inform you of what I have wrote to him on this head, which Letter you may deliver, or destroy at pleasure.

I am exceedingly obliged to you for your kind offer's of Services in London, but I have nothing to give you the trouble of. I write in very great haste, and know I may depend upon your Friendship to excuse any thing and every thing amiss in the Letter.

With the most perfect regard, I remain, etc.

***To MESSRS. JOHN AND JAMES SEARLES**

Mount Vernon, April 30, 1763.

Gentn: At the recommendation of Fielding Lewis Esqr. I am induced to give you the trouble of sending me a Pipe of the best Maderia Wine for the amount of which please to draw on Robert Cary Esqr. and Co. Mercht. in London who are advised thereof. I would choose a rich oily Wine, and if the present vintage should not be good, to have it of the last, or in short of any other which you can recommend. You will be so good as to send this Wine pr. the first opp'ty addressed to me on Potomack River in Fairfax County Virga.; I should choose to have it sent in a Vessel to this River, if one should offer in any reasonable time, if not, please to send it to Norfolk recommended to the care of Collo. Tucker who can readily forward it from thence; but I should prefer the former of the two much. I am Gentn., etc.

Note the above sent by Collo. Field'g Lewis.

***To ROBERT STEWART**

Williamsburg, May 2, 1763.

My dear Stewart: With some difficulty I have at last procured the Inclosed which you will please to make use of as occasion may require. I was upon the point of forwarding these, and my Letters to you, by the Betsy a Ship from James River bound for London when Collo. Hunter arrived and informed me that he left you the 15th. or 16th. Ult. at New York and that your Imbarkation for England seemed to be matter of doubt. I have therefore changed the Route of these Letters now sending them to New York to the care of Beverley Robinson Esqr. who is desired to forward them in case of your departure from thence to London.

The Bills as you may perceive are drawn on Messrs. Lydes of London and Backhouse of Liverpool to the mount of £302 Sterl'g that is to say:

On Messrs. Lyde for £222.0.0

and Mr. Jno. Backhouse for 80 £302.0.0

Signing of the Definitive Treaty seems to be the only piece of News w'ch prevails here at present, and diffuses general Joy. Our Assembly is suddenly called in consequence of a Memorial of the British Merchts. to the Board of Trade representing the evil consequences of our Paper emissions, and their Lordships report and order's thereupon which I suppose will set the whole Country in Flames; this stir of the Merchts. seems to be ill timed and cannot be attended with any good effects; bad I fear it will, however on the 19th. Instt. the Assembly Meet and till then I will suspend my further opinion of the matter. I am with the most unalterable regard, My dear Stewart, etc.

***To BEVERLEY ROBINSON**

Mount Vernon, May 8, 1763.

Dear Sir: The Inclosed for my friend Collo. Stewart is of some consequence, and I take the liberty of recommending of it to your care; if he should be Imbarked for England as I must suppose he is before this (by his Letters) pray be so good as to forward the packet to him by a safe conveyance; if in York you will do me a favour in delivering of it; and in either case of hearing by Post whether it got safe to your hands or not.

Mr. Peter Robinson has been paid the amt. of your Acct. as I doubt not but he has advised you. We have little News stirring, the Definite Treaty of Peace at last seems concluded and gives general Joy to the People of this part of the World.

I parted with the Speaker⁵⁴ (who is in a way of adding to his Family) about four days ago in perfect health. I beg you will make a tender of my Compliments to Mrs. Robinson and your Family and do me the favour to believe that with very great esteem I remain Dr. Sir, etc.

54. John Robinson, father of Beverley.

***To ROBERT STEWART**

Mount Vernon, August 13, 1763.

My Dear Stewart: By Captn. Walter Stuart I am favoured with an opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your Letter of the 6th. of June, and at the same time of forwarding the Copy of my former (which was in readiness before that came to hand, and) which I incline to send notwithstanding the original is got to hand, because it contains the Second Bills, and other matters entire as they ought to have been sent, and as I dare say Mr. Stuart will be so good as to deliver.

Another tempest has arose upon our Frontiers, and the alarm spread wider than ever; in short the Inhabitants are so apprehensive of danger that no Families stand above the Conogocheage road and many are gone of below it; their Harvests are in a manner lost, and the distresses of the Settlement appear too evident and manifold to need description: In Augusta many people have been killed, and numbers fled, and confusion and despair prevails in every Quarter. At this Instant a calm is taking place, which forebodes some mischief to Collo. Bouquet at least those who wish well to the Convoy are apprehensive for him since it is not unlikely that the retreat of all the Indian Parties at one and the same time from our Frontiers is a probable proof of their Assembling a force somewhere, and for some particular purpose; none more likely then to oppose his March.⁵⁷

It was expected that our Assembly woud have been called in such exegencies as these but its concluded (as I have been informed) that an Assembly without money could be no eligable plan; to comprehend the meaning of this expression, you must know, the Board of Trade at the Instance of the British Merchants, have undertaken to rebuke us in the most ample manner for our Paper Emission's; and therefore the Governor and Council hath directed 1000 Militia

57. Pontiac's conspiracy. The Shawnees, Delawares, Senecas, and other Ohio tribes of Indians had made a general and almost simultaneous attack upon all the remote frontier settlements and posts. They had committed many murders, and taken the forts at Le Bœuf, Venango, Presqu'Isle, and others on Lake Michigan, the Miami River, the Wabash, at Sandusky, and Michilimackinac. Fort Pitt

(formerly Duquesne) was in imminent danger of falling into their hands. In July, Colonel Bouquet was dispatched by General Amherst with 500 men and a supply of military stores for the relief of that fort. He marched through Pennsylvania, following the same route that had been pursued by General Forbes's army. The Indians, who were then besieging Fort Pitt, heard of his march and came out to meet him. They attacked his army on the 5th and 6th of August in a defile near the headwaters of Turtle Creek (Bushy Run), and the contest was kept up during the two days with considerable loss on both sides. Colonel Bouquet maintained his ground and, routing the Indians, marched without further molestation to Fort Pitt. The news of this action seems not to have reached Washington when he wrote the above letter.— *Sparks*.

Ford quotes from General Amherst's letter to Sir William Johnson (August 27): "Some random shots were fired on the army between Bushy Run and Fort Pitt; but this seasonable check I believe will put an effectual stop to any further mischief being done on that communication; particularly as Colonel Stephen with 4 or 500 men of the Virginia militia is advanced as far as Forts Cumberland and Bedford, with a view not only of covering the frontiers, but of acting offensively against the savages. This public spirited colony has also sent a body of the like number of men under the command of Colonel Lewis for the defence and protection of their southwest frontiers. What a contrast this makes between the conduct of the Pennsylvanians and Virginians, highly to the honor of the latter, but places the former in the most despicable light imaginable." The King signified his displeasure at the "supine and neglectful conduct" of the Pennsylvania Legislature, and urged more vigorous measures upon all the Colonies except Virginia and Maryland.

Francis Parkman's *Conspiracy of Pontiac* presents the complete picture of this Indian outbreak.

to be employed for the protection of the Frontiers 500 of which are to be Drafted from Hampshire &ca. and be under the Command of Collo. Stephen whose Military Courage and Capacity (says the Governor) is well established. The other 500 from the Southern Frontier Counties are to be conducted by Major Lewis so that you may readily conceive what an enormous expence must attend these Measures. Stephens immediately upon the Indians retiring, advanced to Fort Cumberland with 200 or 250 Militia in great parade and will doubtless archieve some signal advantage of which the Publick will soon be informed.

I think I have now communicated the only News which these parts afford; it is of a melancholy nature indeed and yet we cannot tell how, or when it is to end. I hope you have got matters settled to your liking before this time. I shoud rejoice to hear it, as I shoud do at every thing that gives you pleasure or profit.

Mrs. Washington makes a tender of her Compliments, and you may be assured that I am with great sincerity Dr. Sir, etc.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

September 27, 1763.

Gentn: Your Letters of the 13th. and 23d. of April last are all that have come to hand since mine of the 13th. of June. I am sorry to find that my Tobacco which was intended by Hammond, and which he ought to have taken (after runn'g me to the expence of Insurance &ca.) is likely to come to so unfavourable a Market as your Letter of the 13th. seems to bespeake, under such manifest disappointments and losses. I am affraid it is very improbable that I shall acquire much benefits by Shipping; however you will this year have Consigned you on my Account 19 Hhds. pt. the Nautilus 10 by the Luckey (from James River) and 48 by the Tryal. Captn. McGachin 14 whereof are of my Rent Tobacco sent to make up the difficiency of my Crop on Potomack, and in hopes you will make the most of them to the purchasers of that kind of Tobacco; indeed I will not say much in favour of some of my other Tobo. by this Ship as the kinds are not such as I could wish namely the Hhds. No. 4 to 11 Inclusive (being the narrow Leaved) but I flatter myself you will dispose of them to the best advantage this year as they are the last of the kind I ever shall raise. I was intending to have shipped them under a different Mark but they were put on board the Ship before I had given the Inspectors directions on this head and therefore it was omitted. My Tobacco from York River as well as Master Custis's will go home without Insurance, owing to a neglect in my Stewards not giving me timely notice of the Ship and Masters name in James River, and of the exact destribution of the Tobacco for want of which could not be precise in my orders however as there is no other danger now than that arising from the Sea I hope it is a matter of no great consequence; Master Custis has 37 Hhds.

on board of Captn. Boyes and 20 on the Luckey.

My Goods by Johnstown came in good order but Miss Custis looses a Trunk No. 2 containing Linnen and other things to the amount (pr. Invoice) of £25.2.8; the Trunk is included in Captn. Johnstowns Bill of Lading who says when he put his hand to those Bills there were some things yet to prepare and put in the Trunk and that he never got it afterwards, I was in hopes then that it might have been sent by Captn. Boyes but in this we were also disappointed for I have got round those Goods and Captn. Boyes whom I have seen knows nothing of any such thing. I do not doubt but you will have this matter enquired into and see that Miss Custis is no looser; but disappointed she greatly is.

The Goods from York River Mr. Valentine complains most heavily of, especially the narrow Hoes which he says are so small and sorry that he cannot possibly (or nothing but mere necessity can cause him to) use them for they are scarcely wider or bigger in any respect than a man's hand. I directed him to return them again but whether he has done so or not I cannot tell.

Inclosed you will receive several Invoices;⁵⁸ the Goods for Potomack may be Shipped by Captn. McGachin who returns to this River again, and on whose care and punctuality I can much depend; and those for Mrs. Dandridge you will be so good as to send by Captn. Boyes into York River. I cannot just now make out Invoice for our Plantation's on York, but so soon as I go down there (which will be in a very few days) I shall be able to do this and will forward the order without delay. The Inclosed to Mr. Didsbury contains measures, and orders for all the Shoes mentioned in the Body of my Invoice you will have no occasion therefore to be at further trouble about the Shoes than just to send the Letter. Be so good as to direct your Seed Merchant to let

58. Among other articles in these invoices are: "1 compleat sett. Chariot Harness for Six (middle sized) Horses, to be strong, yet light and to have my crest. 1 Neat silver Pencil—exactly Six Inches long, to have the Inches and parts of an Inch marked thereon and to be open at both ends. 1 travelling Razor case—to contn. two Razors (of the very best kind) Strop, brush, box, Powder, &ca. To be bought of Mr. Shelbey in Dean Street, Soho. 1 White lutestring Sacque & Coat sprigd with white—all to be made by Mrs. Fairfax's Measure. 1 Coffee Mill; best sort."

me have those Seeds I have required new and good, especially the St. Foine w'ch is a tender Seed and difficult to get here safe.

The Inclosed Bill (if my first of the same Tenor is not come to hand) please to receive and give my acct. credit for the amount. Mr. Digges the bearer of this, and a Gentleman of merit, I beg leave to recommend to your notice, and am Gentn. etc.

Sent by Mr. Charles Digges

Copy—By the Tryal Captn. McGachin

***To JOHN DIDSBURY**

Mount Vernon, September 27, 1763.

Sir: The last Cargoe of Shoes you sent me, fit very well, and I hope you will continue to preserve my Last. You will please to send me (with the Goods Mr. Cary will forward) the following Shoes and according to the Inclosed measures, to wit:

For myself.

2 pr. Mens neatest Shoes

2 pr. nearest stitched and 6 d. Pumps

6 pr. Serv'ts Shoes on my Last

1 pr. strong Shoe Boots

For Mrs. Washington.

1 pr. bla: Satten Pumps

1 pr. white embroidered Do.

3 pr. bla: Callimanca Do

For Mrs. Dandridge.

4 pr. bla: Everlast'g Shoes pr. Meas'e

For Master Custis

4 pr. Pumps pr. mease.

4 pr. Shoes for himself

3 pr. strg. Shoes for Serv't 16 yrs. old

2 pr. Womens course Do large 7s

For Miss Custis

2 pr. bla: Satten Pumps

6 pr. bla: Callimanca Ditto

pr. Meas'e

3 pr. Leather Ditto

2 pr. strg. course Womens Shoes 6s.

The above Shoes you will please to charge to the Persons for whom they are intended (except Mrs. Washington's which must be placed to my Bill) and the whole amount will be paid you by Mr. Cary; they must also be put into different Packages, and Mr. Cary will see that they are properly forwarded. I am Sir, etc.

***To RICHARD WASHINGTON**

Mount Vernon, September 27, 1763.

Dear Sir: In July —62 I received the Copy of your Letter of the 27th. of April preceding. By Captn. Braise it came, and superscribed with a Box, but no Box appeared, nor did I much wonder at it, it being the Copy of a Letter only, and the Captns. disavowing the receipt of any such Package; some considerable time after this I was favoured with the original Letter, but by what Ship it was brought, I am to this day ignorant, for neither the Ship's nor the Captain's name was mentioned, and altho' your Letter began with saying you Inclose the Captns. receipt (for the Box,) no such receipt was found, nor Invoice or Bill of Costs, nor mention made who this Captn. was: finding myself reduced to this dilemma, and left without a footstep of enquiry, I resolved to wait for further explanation, or 'till I shoud hear of the Box before I gave you the trouble of a Letter, but neither of these happening till Collo. Fairfax presented me with your obliging favour of. the 13th. of April last, I began to despair Of the desired information, however upon receipt of that Letter I immediately dispatched a Servant to Mr. Middleton at Annapolis from whose Wife (he not being at home) I got the Inclosed answer. What it is I have further to expect in this matter you can best resolve.

In the Event of your ever visiting America, I am in hopes you will not think a little time ill spent in a small Tower to Virginia. We have few things here striking to European Travellers (except an abundant Woods); but a little variety, a welcome reception among a few friends, and the open and prevalent hospitality of the Country in general, might perhaps proove agreeable for a while; and I must be permitted to add, that I shall think myself very happy in seeing you at Mr. Vernon

where you might depend upon finding the most cordial entertainment.

The Indians at a time when we thought ourselves fixed in the utmost tranquility, have, in open violation of the Treaty recommenced Hostilities, and (by a sudden Irruption) thrown the Frontiers of almost all the Colonies into terrible consternation. They have lately met with some pretty rugged treatment, and it is hoped they will sue for Terms again in a very little while.

I dined at Belvior yesterday, and left the Family in perfect health; as also Doctr. Cockburnes, Mrs. Washington makes a tender of her Compliments and I am Dr. Sir, etc.

By the Tryal—Capt. Wm. McGachin.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Mount Vernon, October 4, 1763.

Gentn. Since mine of the 27th. Ult. Capt. McGachin who will do me the favour to deliver this, and who for several years past has commanded a Convict Ship into this River (a service neither consistent with his Inclinations or Health to perservere in) has expressed a desire of being recommended to the Command of the Ship which you have given us Reasons to expect into Potomack. A Request I do most readily comply with, because a personal acquaintance with Mr. McGachin added to his general good Character enables me to introduce him to you as a Gentleman of known skill, deligence and Integrity; and who by a long use to the Trade, and this River in particular, has contracted a general acquaintance and mutual friendship with the best Gentlemen on it; as such then he has my warmest wishes to your employ; and I am petswaded if you are not preengaged, you cannot light upon a Master who will act more for your Interest, or will give more universal satisfaction to your corrispondants on the River than he will; shoud he be so fortunate to succeed then, I think I can venture to assure you that he will stand in no need of particular Addresses; his knowledge of the Business, and acquaintance with the Gentlemen rendering it not only unnecessary but perhaps detrimental to your Interest. You will be so good as to excuse the liberty I have taken, and do me the justice to believe that I am quite disinterested

in this recommendation, as much so however as a Man can be who wishes to see his property committed to the managem't of a Person in whose care he can confide. I am Gentn. etc.

By Captn. McGachin.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Williamsburg, January 22, 1764.

Gentn: Captn. Mather whom I met with at this place a day or two ago, seeming to be pretty much distressed to compleat his Loading before the lay days are out, I shall, in order to facilitate his dispatch, give him all the Tobacco I have ready upon York River amounting to Fifty two Hhds, or which please to make Insurance and proportion the charge hereafter for I cannot at this Instant tell what part is mine, nor have I time to enquire, as Captn. Whiting by whom I now write, is just ready to Sail. I expect we shall have Seventy, perhaps Eighty Hhds more on this River and these shall be reserved for the Nautilus; but my Crops upon Potomack are vastly deficient, in short a wet Spring, a dry Summer, and early Frosts have quite demolished me.

At our next April General Court I expect I shall have occasion to draw upon you in behalf of Master John Parke Custis to the amount of Seven, eight, or more hundred pounds, £500 certainly, and take this opportunity of giving you advice of it.

Shoud this Letter get to your hands before the Shipping Sail for Potomack, please to send me over and above what are mentioned in my Invoice, 25 M 8d 25 M 10d and 25 M 20 d. nails. I shall write to Mr. Jno. Searles of Madeira for another Pipe of Wine directing him to draw upon you for the Costs which I hope will be paid. I am Gentn., etc.

Sent by Captn. Jno. Whiting.

***To JOHN SEARLES**

January 30, 1764.

Sir: Your favour of the 22d. of August last I have had the pleasure to receive, as also the Wine accompanying of it which lyes yet untasted, but from your recommendation of it I shall suppose it

good and therefore desire you will send me such another Pipe and draw as before upon Robert Cary Esqr. & Co. who are advised thereof and will pay accordingly.

If no opportunity should offer soon to Potomack River you will please to send the Wine to Norfolk recommended to the care of Collo. Tucker as the last was. I am Sir, etc.

Sent by Collo. Lewis's Vessel to Madeira

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Mount Vernon, February 13, 1764.

Gentn: The Inclosed is a Copy of my last of the 22d. Ult. We have been curiously entertained of late with the description of an Engine lately constructed (I believe in Switzerland, and undergone some Improvements since in England) for taking up Trees by the Roots; among other things it is related that Trees of considerable Diameter are forced up by this Engine, that Six hands in working one of them will raise two or three hundred Trees in the space of a day; and that an Acre of Ground may be eased of the Trees and laid fit for Plowing in the same time. How far these assertions have been amply realized by repeated experiments it is impossible for me at this distance to determine but if the Accounts are not greatly exaggerated such powerful assistance must be of vast utility in many parts of this Wooden Country when it is impossible for our Force (and labourers are not to be hired here) between the finishing of one Crop and preparations for another to clear Ground fast enough to afford the proper changes either in the Planting or Farming business. The Chief purport of this Letter therefore is to beg the favour of you Gentlemen to make minute enquiries into the Tryals that have been made by Order of the Society and if they have proved satisfaction, to send me one of these Engines by the first Ship bound to this River (Potomack). If they are made of different sizes, I should prefer one of a middle Size, capable of raising a tree of 15 or 18 Inches Diameter. The Costs I am pretty much a stranger to 15, 20 and 25 Guineas have been spoke of but the Price (were it dble that) I should totally disregard provided the Engine is capable of performing what is related of it, and not of that complicated nature to be easily

disordered, and rendered unfit for use, but constructed upon so plain, simple, and durable a Plan that the common Artificers of this Country may be able to set them to rights if any accidents should happen to them. If you should send one be so good as to let me have with it the most ample direction's for the effectual using of it, together with a model of its manner of operating.

Mrs. Washington woud take it as a favour if you woud direct Mr. Shelby to send her a fashionable Summer Cloak and Hatt, a black Silk Apron, x pr. of penny and one pr. of two penny Ribbon (white) and a pair of French bead Earhags and Necklace; and I shoud be obliged to you for sending me a dozen and an half of Water Plates (Pewter with my Crest engraved). I am Gentn., etc.

By Captn. Dawson for London.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Williamsburg, May 1, 1764.

Gentn: The Copy of your Letter of the 13th. of February, by Falman, is come to hand, but for want of the Account Inclosed in the Original I am at a loss to conceive how my balance can possibly be so much as £1811.1.1 in your favour, or Master Custis's so little as £1407.14.7 in his; however as the several Accts. will shew what Articles are charged and credited, without which there can be no judging; I shall, postpone an explicit answer till they arrive.

Your observation's in regard to the money which Master Custis has in your hands are most certainly just, for his Acct. and mine altho' both under my directions, are become very distinct things since the Settlement of the Estate and on his behalf I now draw three Bills upon you, two of them in favour of Fielding Lewis Esqr. for £100 and £500 and the 3d. in favour of Mr. James Gibson for £200 mak'g in all £800 for which Sums your Acct. will have credit not doubting the due acceptance of the Bills.

As to my own Debt I shall have no objections to allowing you Interest upon it untill it is discharged and you may charge it accordingly from this time forward, but had my Tobacco sold as I expected and the Bills been paid according to promise I was in hopes to have fallen very little in Arrears; however as it is otherwise I shall endeavour to discharge the Ball's as fast as I can, flattering myself there will be no just cause for compl'ts of the Tobacco this year. What little I make upon Potomack, which indeed will not exceed 30 or 35 Hhds., will I hope be of a better quality that the last, and from this River (York) there remains 81 Hhds. which I am told will proove good, 21 of which belongs to me and the other 60 to Master Custis. Of the 52 which went in

Mather, 15 were mine and 37 Master Custis's.

I wish my fears may not proore true, but I am very apprehensive Boyes will stick long upon hand here, however what Tobacco I have both on this River and Potomack shall be applied in loading of

him and I wish a better dispatch to the Ship than many of your Corrispondants seem Inclined to give to it being, Yours, etc.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Mount Vernon, August 10, 1764.

Gentlemen: Since my last of the first of May I have received the Goods by Boyes, likewise the Nails pr. Watson, with Letters, Accounts of Sales Accounts Current &ca., which accompanied them; as also another Letter of the 28th. of March by Captn. Hooper.

It might possibly answer very little purpose were I to enter into a minute detail of the Reasons that have caused me to fall so much in arrears to you and therefore I shall not trouble you fully with the particulars at this time but content myself with observing in as few words as the nature of the Subject will admit of that in whatsoever light it may appear to you, it is not less evidently certain that Mischances rather than Misconduct hath been the causes of it; For it was a Misfortune that Seasons and chance shoud prevent my making even tolerable Crops in this part of the Country for three years successively and it was a misfortune likewise when they were made that I shoud get little or nothing for them. It may also be looked upon, as unlucky at least, that the debts which I thought I had collected and actually did remit to you shoud be paid in Bills void of credit, and as things have turned out (and you have such occasion for your money) it is unlucky likewise that I made some purchases of Land and Slaves in this Country since it obliged me to apply more of the Curft. money (which was due to the Estate here) towards the payment thereof than I expected and of consequence more of the Sterlg. Balle. in your hands to the credit of Master Custis in order to Assign him his full dividend of the personal Estate not conceiving in the least degree that I should have occasion for more of it than woud remain after such application was made; because, had these Bills been answered, had my Crops proved good, and sold well, the Balle. I think cou'd never have been against me. However to be as short as possible; To remove the seeming apprehension

(expressed in yours of the 13th. of February) of your suffering in point of Interest for the money you then discovered you stood in advance for me I wrote you on the first of May following that I had no sort of objections to allowing Interest from thence forward and desired you woud charge it accordingly untill the Debt was Paid; not desiring that you or any body else should suffer in the most trivial Instances on my Account; and I shall now in consequence of your other Letter of the 28th. of March beg leave to inform you, in terms equally sincere and direct, that it is not in my power I shoud add in a manner convenient and agreeable to myself, to make remittances faster than my Crops (and perhaps some few occasional Sums which may fall in my way) will furnish me with the means: but if

notwithstanding, you cannot be content with this mode of payments you have only to advise me of it and I shall hit upon a method (tho' I woud choose to avoid it) that will at once discharge the Debt, and effectually remove me from all further mention of it; For I must confess, I did not expect that a corispondant so steady, and constant as I have proved, and was willing to have continued to your House while the advantages were in any degree reciprocal woud be reminded in the Instant it was discovered how necessary it was for him to be expeditous in his payments. Reason and prudence naturally dictates to every Man of common sense the thing that is right and you might have rested assured, that so fast as I coud make remittances without distressing myself too much my Inclinations woud have prompted me to it: because in the first place it is but an irksome thing to a free mind to be any ways hampered in Debt; and in the next place, I think I have discovered no intentions, since I have found how the Balle. was likely to turn, of increasing that Debt (unless it shoud appear in the amount of my Invoices last year which greatly indeed exceeded my expectations but will be ballenced I hope

by the contracted one of this year): but on the contrary all the willingness I coud, under the accidents that have happened, of decreasing it to the utmost of my power; but I have already run into much greater prolivity on this head than I promised or intended. Your answer will determine my measures, and upon this Issue it must rest.

I shoud be glad to receive an Acct. of Sales for the rest of the Tobaccos which Master Custis and myself have in your hands that I may see more fully how the Ballances stand. All the Tobacco which I had ready upon this River I have given to Boyes amounting to 20 Hhds on which please to make such Insurance as you shall judge most advisable; in like manner do upon 21 Hhds of my York River Tobacco in the same Ship; and upon Sixty of Master Custis's which accompanies it. I have about 8 or 10 Hhds more on this River which shall be Shipd by the first Vessell I can obtain liberty in after it is got from the Mountains where the disturbances that have been occasiond by the Indians renders it difficult to procure Waggon's for the transportation of it.

Some pains have I taken to satisfie myself of the equity of Mrs. Pasavents claim of £5.8.6 or to convince you of the Injustice of it the latter of which I conceive can easily be done from the Inclosed papers and from Mrs. Washingtons assertion's who will if required give testimony that she never sent for such Goods as Mrs. Passavent Charges, the delivery of in 1758 (for the eviction of which it is only having recourse to the order's of the preceeding year) and moreover that She never did receive any such. Inclosed is Mrs. Pasavents Note of Sundrys sent by Captn. Coxen and charged in your Invoice of March 1758. If any such Goods were had (as She now charges) woud they not have been included in this Bill? surely I think so, but further I can declare I never saw or heard of such things altho' the Goods by Coxen arrivd a little before the time of my Marriage and in 1760 I wrote

for the very Identical Articles, which She there charges, (except the French bead Stomacker and Sleeve knots) and had them in accordingly the year following as will appear by S. Rush's Note and your own Invoice and that at the very identical prices also which the other has chargd; it is very unlikely therefore that we should have occasion for Goods of this sort in the succession here chargd on the contrary I think it must appear evident from the circumstances and assurances here given that Mrs. Passavents claim arises from a mistake, or that the charge is in itself unjustly made in either of which cases I cannot submit to a payment of the demand.

Miss Custis's Trunk which was missing last year is at length received: the contents in good order. Inclosd are Invoices of such Goods as I stand in need of for my Family's use and should be glad to receive by the first good opportunity that offers to this River (Potomack): The usual quantity of Goods for our Plantation's on York River are yet to be added but untill I see or hear from Mr. Valentine I cannot form the Lists in the meantime am unwilling to slip the present occasion of forwarding my own.

Equally in behalf of Master and Miss Custis, and in favour of Mr. Walter Magowan (their Tutor) I drew upon you the 6th. Instt. for £45.13.9 which is to be charged to them in equal proportion's. Miss Custis may not perhaps just at the time of offering this Bill have as much money in your hands arising from the Interest of Bank Stock as will fully pay her half of it, and answer the order for Goods at the sametime, but as the half years payment at Lady day⁶⁶ next will soon follow, and I shall always be ready to make up any deficiency, I hope they will nevertheless meet with a ready acceptance. I am, Gentn., etc.

66. One of the quarterly days for settling accounts; Lady Day was the Feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary, March 25.

***To CHARLES LAWRENCE**

[Mount Vernon], Virginia, August 10, 1764.

Mr. Lawrence: The things following you will send for the purposes required and charge them as their directed.

A Livery suit to be made of worsted Shagg of the Inclosed colour and fineness lined with red shalloon; and made as follows. The Coat and Breeches alike with a plain white washed button; the Button holes worked with Mohair of the same col'r. A collar of red shagg to the Coat with a narrow

lace like the Inclosed round it; a narrow Cuff of the same colour of the Coat turn'd up to the bent of the Arm and laced round at that part; the waistcoat made of red Shagg (worsted Shagg also) and laced with the same lace as that upon the Collar and Sleeves. This Suit to be made by the largest measure sent, and charged to George Washington.⁶⁷

Also one other Livery Suit made exactly as the above and of the same coloured Shaggs and Lace by the other measure but charged to Master Custis along with the following things which you are des'd to send for his own wear'g Apparel—viz

A Suit of fashionable Cloth Cloaths

A Suit of thin Summer Do, and

3 pr. Nankeen Breeches. Note these are to be sent for a boy of Eleven years of age; those sent last year to him were rather too large

67. Washington altered this livery in an unimportant degree in a letter to Lawrence, written shortly after this date.

but you are to consider he is growing.

I cannot conclude this Letter without observing that your charges are most exorbitantly high insomuch that it will be impossible for me to continue my corrispondance and dealings with you unless I am to experience some alteration for the better. It is unnecessary I dare venture to say for me to point out in what Instances, I shall only refer you generally to the Bills you have sent me particularly for a Pompadour Suit forwarded last July amounting to £16.3.6 without Embroidery, Lace, or Binding, not a close fine cloth neither; and only a gold Button that woud not stand the least Wear. Robert Cary Esqr. & Co. will pay the Costs of these Cloaths and I am, Sir, etc.

***To CROSBIES & TRAFFORD**

Mount Vernon, Virginia, March 6, 1765.

Gentn: Captn. McCabe has prevaild on me to believe, that you will render me an agreeable Acct. of Sales for a Ton of Tobacco; to try the event therefore and oblige him I now Inclose you a Bill of Loading for four Hhds, which you will please to dispose of to the best advantage.

In return, I should be obliged to you for sending me one of the Rotheram (or Patent Plows). If the construction of them are not thoroughly understood in Liverpool you would do me a singular favour in getting it from a place of that name in Yorkshire (where I suppose they were first Invented and now are made) for none but the true sort will answer the end of my sending for it and I had rather be at the expence of the Carriage from thence than not have the right kind or be disappointed. You will please to order it to be made exceeding light as our Lands are not so stiff as your's nor our Horses so strong. At the sametime I should be glad to receive

1 dozn. 8/4 Diaper Table Cloaths a 6/

½ dozn. 10/4 Do Do Do a 10/

60 Ells of strong white sheeting at about 20d.

25 Sacks of Salt (best twisted Sacks) or what remains of the nett. proceeds of the Tobacco in this last Articles.

As I would willingly receive these things by the Return of Captn. McCabe and you may not by that time have disposed of my Tobacco possibly you can judge nearly what it will fetch, and make the Returns accordingly, I am Gentn., etc.

Sent by Captn. McCabe.

***To CARLYLE & ADAM⁶⁸**

Mount Vernon, March 9, 1765.

Gentn: So soon as Mr. Lund Washington returns from Fredk. I shall cause my Wheat to be delivered at your landing on Four Miles Run Creek, if Flats can get to it conveniently: but previous to this I should be glad to know determinately upon what terms you expect to receive it that is whether by weight or measure. I once thought I had agreed with Colo. Carlyle at 58 lbs. to the Bushel but it seems it was otherwise be that as it will you may believe me sincere when I tell you that it is a matter of very great indifference to me whether it is fixed at this or suffered to stand as it is Consequently at any greater weight you may be assured I never shall it being a thing extremely doubtful from every trial I have been able to make with Steelyards whether I should gain or lose by a Contract of this kind. The Wheat from some of my Plantations by one pair of Steelyards will weight upwards of 60 lbs., by another pair less than 60 lbs.; and from some other places it does not weigh 58 lbs. and

better wheat than I now have I do not expect to make during the term of our Contract at least whilst I continue to sow a good deal of Ground.

The only Reason therefore which Inclines me to sell by weight at a medium which I think just and equitable is that it may be a means of avoiding all kinds of Controversy hereafter for I am perswaded that if either of us gains by it, it must be you; I may be encouraged indeed to bestow better land to the growth of wheat than old Corn Ground and excited perhaps to a more husband like preparation of it but to do either of these is much more expensive than the method now practised and in fact may not be so profitable as the slovenly but easy method of raising it in Corn Ground. If it should, and my wheat be the better for it thereby it is a truth I believe universally acknowledged

68. John Carlyle and Robert Adam, Alexandria, Va., merchants.

that for every pound it gains after it is once got to a middling-weight it increases the flour in a tenfold proportion.

You were saying that the Standard for Wheat at Philadelphia was 58 lbs., and at Lancaster 60 lbs. I have taken some pains to inquire likewise into this matter and am informed, that 58 is a much more general weight than the other all over Pennsylvania and Maryland (where there wheat is better than ours can be till we get into the same good management) and Colo. Tucker's Miller, a Man from the Northward upon high Wages, who I saw whilst I was last below assured me that very few Bushels out of the many thousands of Wheat which he receives for Colo. Tucker reached 58 lbs However that you may not think I have other motives than those declared for mentioning these things I shall only observe that as you are sensible by my present Contract I am not restricted to Weight but obliged only to deliver clean Wheat and as good as the year and Seasons will generally admit of I will nevertheless in order to remove every cause of dispute which can possibly arise fix the weight, if it is agreeable to you at fifty eight pounds per Bushel and to be paid a penny for every pound over that weight and deduct a penny for every pound it is under. If you do not choose this the Contract⁶⁹ must then remain as it now stands. I am, &c.

69. Washington's contract, dated Jan. 18, 1763, is in the *Washington Papers*.

***To FRANCIS DANDRIDGE**

Mount Vernon, September 20, 1765.

Sir: If you will permit me after six years silence, the time I have been married to your Niece, to pay my respects to you in this Epistolary way I shall think myself happy in beginning a corrispondance which cannot but be attended with pleasure on my side.

I shoud hardly have taken the liberty Sir, of Introducing myself to your acquaintance in this manner, and at this time, least you shoud think my motives for doing of it arose from sordid views had not a Letter which I receivd sometime this Summer from Robt. Cary & Co. given me Reasons to believe that such an advance on my side woud not be altogether disagreeable on yours before this I rather apprehended that some disgust at the News of your Nieces Marriage with me, and why I coud not tell, might have been the cause of your silence upon that event, and discontinuing a corrispodance which before then you had kept up with her; but if I could only flatter myself, that you woud in any wise be entertained with the few occurances that it might be in my power to relate from hence I shoud endeavour to attone for my past remisness, in this respect, by future punctuality.

At present few things are under notice of my observation that can afford you any amusement in the recital. The Stamp Act Imposed on the Colonies by the Parliament of Great Britain engrosses the conversation of the Speculative part of the Colonists, who look upon this unconstitutional method of Taxation as a direful attack upon their Liberties, and loudly exclaim against the Violation; what may be the result of this and some other (I think I may add) ill judgd Measures, I will not undertake to determine; but this I may venture to affirm, that the advantage accruing to the Mother Country will fall greatly short of the expectations of the Ministry; for certain it is, our whole Substance does already in a manner flow to Great Britain

and that whatsoever contributes to lessen our Importation's must be hurtful to their Manufacturers. And the Eyes of our People, already beginning to open, will perceive, that many Luxuries which we lavish our substance to Great Britain for, can well be dispensd with whilst the necessaries of Life are (mostly) to be had within ourselves. This consequently will introduce frugality, and be a necessary stimulation to Industry. If Great Britain therefore Loads her Manufactures with heavy Taxes, will it not facilitate these Measures? they will not compel us I think to give our Money for their exports, whether we will or no, and certain I am none of their Traders will part from them without a valuable consideration. Where then is the Utility of these Restrictions?

As to the Stamp Act, taken in a single view, one, and the first bad consequences attending it I take to be this. Our Courts of Judicature must inevitably be shut up; for it is impossible (or next of kin to it) under our present Circumstances that the Act of Parliam't can be complyd with were we ever so willing to enforce the execution; for not to say, which alone woud be sufficient, that we have not Money to pay the Stamps, there are many other Cogent Reasons to prevent it; and if a stop be put to

our judicial proceedings I fancy the Merchants of G. Britain trading to the Colonies will not be among the last to wish for a Repeal of it.⁷¹

I live upon Potomack River in Fairfax County, about ten Miles below Alexandria and many Miles distant from any of my Wiles Relations; who all reside upon York River, and who we seldom see more than once a year, not always that. My wife who is very well and Master and Miss Custis (Children of her former Marriage) all join in making a tender of their Duty and best respects to yourself and the Aunt. My Compliments to your Lady I beg may also be made acceptable and that you will do me the justice to believe that I am, etc.

Sent by Captn. Jno. Johnstown

71. "Government is set at defiance, not having strength enough in her hands to enforce obedience to the laws of the community. The private distress which every man feels, increases the general dissatisfaction at the duties laid by the stamp act, which breaks out, and shews itself upon every trifling occasion."— *Governor Fauquier to Earl of Halifax*, June 14, 1765.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Mount Vernon, September 20, 1765.

Gentn: It cannot reasonably be imagined that I felt any pleasing Sensations upon the receipt of your Letter of the 13th. of February covering Accts. of Sales for 153 Hhds of Master Custis's Tobo. and 115 of mine.

That the Sales are pitifully low, needs no words to demonstrate; and that they are worse than many of my Acquaintance upon this River, Potomack, have got in the Out Posts, and from Mr. Russell and other Merchants of London for common Aronoke Tobo., is a truth equally as certain. Nay not so good as I myself have got from Mr. Gildart of Liverpool for light Rent Tobaccos (Shipd him at the same time I did to you) of the meanest sort; such as you once complaind of as the worst of Maryland and not Saleable. Can it be otherwise than a little mortifying then to find, that we, who raise none but Sweetscented Tobacco, and endeavour I may venture to add, to be careful in the management of it, however we fail in the execution, and who by a close and fixed corrispondance with you, contribute so largely to the dispatch of your Ships in this Country shoud meet with such unprofitable returns? Surely I may answer No! Notwithstanding, you will again receive my own Crops this year, and 67 Hhds of Master Custis's but Gentlemen you must excuse me for adding (As I cannot readily conceive that our Tobacco's are so much depreciated in quality as not only to sell much below other

Marks of good repute, but actually for less, as I before observed, than the commonest kinds do) that justice to myself and ward will render it absolutely necessary for me to change my corrispondance unless I experience an alteration for the better.

I might take notice upon this occasion also, that my Tobo. netts a good deal less than Master Custis's, and why it should do so, I am really at a loss to discover: his 153 Hhds averaging £7.7.7 and my 115 only £5.17.6, perhaps it may be urged that some of mine was Potomack Tobacco, I grant it, but take these out and the Yorks then average £6.6.5 only. If you had allowed him the benefit of the Bonded Duties I shoud not have wonderd at the difference, but this I perceive is not done, and certain I am, my Tobacco ought not to

have been inferior to his, in any respect; the Lands being the same, and my directions for making it good equally as express.

Tobacco I well perceive for a year or two past, had fallen in its value, from what causes I shall not take upon me to determine and I am not so extravagant as to believe that my own and Master Custis's Crops shoud fetch their usual prices when other good Tobacco met with abatements; but I am really selfish enough to expect that we ought to come in for a part of the good prices that are going, from a belief that our Tobacco is of a quality not so much inferior to some that still sells well, and that so considerable a Consignment, when confined in a manner to one House, as ours is, woud lay claim to the best endeavours of the Merchant in the Sales, and in the return of Goods; for many Articles of which I pay exceeding heavily; another thing I cannot easily Account for, unless it is on a Presumption that they are bought at very long credits which by no means ought to be the case; for where a Person has money in a Merchants hands he shoud doubtless have all the benefits that can result from that money, and in like manner where he pays Interest for the use of the Merchants shoud he be entitled to the same advantages, otherwise it might well be asked for what purpose is it that Interest is paid? Once upon my urging a complaint of this nature you wrote me, that the Goods ought to be sent back, and they shoud be returned upon the Shopkeepers hands in cases of Imposition; but a moments reflection points out the Inconveniences of such a measure unless (the Imposition be grossly abusive, or that) we coud afford to have a years stock before hand; how otherwise can a Person who Imports bear requisites only submit to lay a year out of any particular Article of Cloathing, or necessary for Family use, and have recourse to such a tedious and uncertain way of relief as this, when possibly a Tradesman woud deny the Goods and consequently refuse them. It is not to be done, we are obliged to acquiesce to the present loss and hope for future redress.

These Gentlemen are my Sentiments, fully, and candidly expressd, without any design, believe me, of giving you offence; but as the selling of our Tobacco's well, and purchasing

of Our Goods upon the best Terms, are matters of the utmost consequence to our well doing, it behooves me to be plain and sincere in my declaration's on these points, previous to any change of measures, that I may stand acquitted of the Imputation of fickleness if I am at last forced to a discontinuance of my corrispondance with your House.

Twenty Hhds of my Tobacco from this River makes up Forty eight which I have in Boyes; the remainder (which is trifling) shall be sent by the first Ship that gives liberty; and as I have not been able to discover any advantages we obtained by our Tobaccos lying so long upon Land, unsold, I should be glad to have the present Crops (and so of others if more be sent) disposd of to the first good Chapmen, and the Sales returnd, unless there is a very probable certainty of a rise of price to warrant the keeping of it.

By this conveyance you will receive Invoices of Goods wanted for our Plantation's on York; and those for this River, will no longer I hope, be sent in by Boyes for when they come into that River we really suffer by the strange mistakes that continually happen; Last year several parcels of Goods designd for York River were sent to this place and others for me left down there and in going backwards and forwards some were lost (things too of no inconsiderable value, for one of the parcels was a Bale of Linnen) and this year all my Plaid hose for this River came in a package to Mr. Valentine and I have them to send for 150 Miles. These mistakes and Inconveniencies woud necessarily be avoided if the Goods were to come by Ships to the respective Rivers; and they woud also escape those frequent damages which is the consequence of shifting them from one Vessel to another, and transporting them from place to place. Oppertunities of doing this cannot be wanting as many Vessels comes to this River annually (from London) some which lye at my Door.

It appears pretty evident to me from the prices I have generally got for my Tobacco in London, and from some other concomitant Circumstances, that it only suits the

Interest of a few particular Gentlemen to continue their consignments of this commodity to that place, while others shoud endeavour to substitute some other Article in place of Tobacco, and try their success there with: In order thereto you woud do me a singular favour in advising of the general price one might expect for good Hemp in your Port watered and prepared according to Act of Parliament, with an estimate of the freight, and all other Incident charges pr. Tonn that I may form some Idea of the profits resulting from the growth. I shoud be very glad to know at the sametime how rough and undressd Flax has generally, and may probably sell; for this year I have made an

Essay in both, and altho I suffer pretty considerably by the attempt, owing principally to the severity of the Drough, and my inexperience in the management I am not altogether discouraged from a further prosecution of the Scheme provided I find the Sales with you are not clogd with too much difficulty and expence.

The Stamp Act...⁷² may be left to yourselves, who have such large demands upon the Colonies, to determine, who is to suffer most in this event, the Merchant, or the Planter.

72. The omitted portion is nearly a verbatim repetition of Washington's strictures on the stamp act which he wrote to Francis Dandridge, this same day, *q. v.*

I am very much obliged to you for your kind advice of corrisponding with Mr. Dandridge, it is a piece of respect due to so near a Relation of my Wifes, and therefore I give you the trouble of the Inclosed; but I have not the least expectation of deriving any advantages from it for tho' he has no nearer relatives than her, there are some to whom I believe he has given stronger proofs of his Inclinations of serving; but to you my thanks are equally due, and I return them with cordiality for the goodness of your Intentions. I am Gentn., etc.

Sent by Captn. John Johnstown

***To CAPEL AND OSGOOD HANBURY**

Mount Vernon, September 20, 1765.

Gentlemen: By the Fauquier Captn. Nicks you will receive 12 Hhds of Master Custis's Tobacco which please to sell to the best advantage and carry the nett proceeds to the credit of his Account. I dare say there can be no exception taken to this Tobacco and therefore I shall hope for more pleasing Sales than were receivd for the two last Parcels I shipd you in his behalf which indeed were low and discouraging.

According to the usual and annual Custom, I expected to have recd. copies of his and the Estates Accts. curr't with you before now, but have been disappointed two years running; your next Letters I hope will furnish me with these, as it is a satisfaction to receive and compare them with my own once a year. Sundry of your favours lying before me, I perceive in one of them you ask if D. P. Custis's Estate was to be debited for the 14 Hhds Tobo. pr. the Joseph, and J.P. Custis credited for the proceeds. My letter of the 26th. of April 1763 did fully direct in this matter; but as you may have forgot the cont'ts I there mentioned that D. P. Custis's Estate was to have credit for the 20 Hhds

pr. the Deliverance because it was Shipd before any Division of the said Estate took place, but that Mastr J.P. Custis was chargeable with the Insurance and other Costs of the 14 Hhds pr. the Joseph, and entitled to the proceeds (this Tobo. being made after that event happend and upon his own Estate) and that you were thence forward to open an acct. with the young Genteman, beginning with that very Tobo., the property being his.

The Parliament by the Bounty given for American Hemp and Flax seem desirous of encouraging the growth of them in the Plan'tns but as they are Articles altogether new to us and I believe not much of our Lands well adapted for them, and as the proper kind of Packages, Freight, and accustomed charges, are little known here I shoud be much obligd to you for advising me of the genel. prices one might expect in your Port for good Hemp, and flax (rough and undressd) Watered, and prepared as directed by the Act w't an estimate of the freight and all other Incident Charges pr. Tonn that I may form some Idea of the profits resulting from the growth. You will please to excuse this trouble, I am Gentn., etc.

Sent pr. Captn. Johnston

***To JAMES GILDART**

Mount Vernon, September 20, 1765.

Sir: Your favour of the 20th. May last, with the Goods pr. the Francis, is just come to hand. The Goods I believe are in good order, but I wish the Chair bottoms may last as I had a tryal of hair once before which were of no duration and from thence determined to have no more; but perhaps all may not be alike and these will answer your recommendation of them, if so, they will do exceeding well.

On board of the Johnston were put eight Hhds of Master Custis's Tobacco (instead of Six which I promised Captn. Mulloy) the proceeds of which you will please to carry to his credit.

The Parliament, by the Bounty given for American Hemp and Flax seem desirous of encouraging the growth...⁷³ I have already made some little Essays in raising of both this year, and altho I have sufferd by the attempt owing principally to the severity of the Drought and my inexperience in the management, I am not altogether discouraged from a further prosecution of the Scheme, provided I find the bounty is easily obtaind, and the Sales not clogd with difficulty and expence, you will please to excuse this trouble, I am Sir, etc.

73. The omitted portion is the same as that written to Capel and Osgood Hanbury, this same day, *q. v.*

Sent by the Potomack, Captn. Thompson, via Glasgow.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Mount Vernon, June 23, 1766.

Gentn: My last of the 28th. of March servd only to advise you of a draft which I made in behalf of Master and Miss Custis in favour of Walter Magowan for £55.8.4 and desiring it might be charged to them equally. Since my Letters of November last by Captn. McGachin (in the Thornton) I have receivd your favours of the 30th. of September, 7 and 18th. of November, 23d. December, and 31st. of January with the Goods pr. Johnstown which came to hand in good order.

I was sorry to find by the last of the above Letters that our Tobacco by Boyes shou'd suffer such damage as is there spoken of, and that the whole shoud not be of equal quality with the few first landed; this I suppose, for I know of no other reason, shoud be attributed to there laying near the Ships bottom and consequently receiving greater damage for I am informed the Ship was an excessive bad one and with difficulty was kept above Water. However the Tobacco I hope by this time is all sold off and that we shall soon receive agreeable Accts. of Sales for it having met with many discouraging ones of late.

Captn. Boyes has just received 10 Hhds of my Potomack Tobac: which with about 20 from York River makes the whole of my last years Crop; the Sales of which I flatter myself will in some measure recompense me for the smallness of quantity the whole being good and that from York River nearly half stemmed notwithstanding the Tobacco woud have been clean and well receivd without, so determined I was to remove the very ground work of complaints; this is also the case with Master Custis's Tobacco and the quantity you will receive from him will be about 50 Hhds but for want of hearing from our Steward I cannot as-

-certain the exact Number of his nor mine but these two quantities you may venture to make Insurance on, i.e. fifty Hhds for him and Thirty for me.

I cannot while I am upon this Subject avoid mentioning a circumstance which I have been but lately informed of, and which has, and will still more hurt your Interest in the Tobacco Consignment if the fact be true, and practice continued. It is this, The Ship which comes into York River in your Interest

and under your address after receiving all the Tobacco She can get from your fixed, and principal corrispondants at £8 pr. Ton fill up the rest of the Load, or as much as Tobacco can be procured for, at a much lower freight by which means those who make a point of keeping their Tobacco for your Ship, and are ready, willing, and do actually contribute largely to her dispatch, are put upon a more disadvantageous footing than casual Corrispondants and others who obtain liberty of Consignment. The matter therefore when stripd of its colouring and exposed to view in naked dress will appear in no other light but this. A Vessel carrying 200 Tons of Tobac. is content with a freight of £1400 (allowing £7 pr. Ton the average of Eight and Six) a few People therefore who Ship one half of the quantity (and if any favour were shown have the best right to expect it) pays £800; the Shippers of the other half pay only £660. Does it not become evident then from hence that the former pays a £100 more than their just proportion and the latter as much less, and that the Charges of the Ship are Taxed upon those who offer their Tobacco freely, and with out conditioning for the freight depending altogether upon the Custom of the Ship for this charge. I do not pretend to say that this information is literally fact, but I have it from those who confidantly affirm it.

In your letter of the 23d. of Decemb'r past, you observe that unless the names of the Shopkeepers (who

charge heavily for their Goods) are pointed out you are left without a footstep of enquiry and me without the means of redress. I grant it, and therefore contrary to a natural aversion of recapitulation I will give you one or two Instances (where the price does not depend upon quality for in that case one can only judge by comparison) to shew that my complaints are not without cause. A certain J. Etherington then for 10 lb. of Ginglass once chargd me £5 Sterlg. when I could have bought it in the Country at the retail prices for a fourth part of the Sum. Thos. Symes for Clover Seed has generally charged me near £3 pr. hund'd and for Turnep Seed 1/. pr. lb. when the former is oftener sold at thirty and from that to three and four and thirty shillings a hundred than any other price and a few lbs. of the latter costs me as much as a bushel does others, and so of other things too tedious, and to little purpose to mention in this place.

By this conveyance I send you Invoices of such Goods as are wanted for Potomack. Also Mrs. Dandridges on York. I have not receivd an Acct. yet of the things wanted for our Plantations on that River but will forward them by the next oppertunity being unwilling to miss so good a one as this is by Johnstown of writing for my own things. I have directed Messrs. Scot, Pringle, Cheap & Co. to send me a Pipe or Butt of Madeira Wine and draw upon you for the Amount which I hope will be paid. Inclosd you have a Bill of Excha. on Messr. Abr'm Hake & Co. of London for £115 Sterlg. and another of Mr. Jordan of the same place for £64 Sterg. both of which you will please to receive and credit my Acct. with. I am, Gentn., etc.⁷⁴

Sent by the Munificence, Captn. Johnstown

74. The invoice sent with this letter ordered, among other things: "I Laboratory, or School of Arts. Museum Rusticum, so far as they have been Publishd. and a volume every year while they continue to Publish them. The Hand-made to the Arts & Sciences. 1 tweve Inch brass Gunter, full and compleat, on one side to have Inches and 10ths and on the other Inches and 12ths as usual. 1 brass sliding or parrallel Rule to be made very true &ca. 4 Guns a 10/each, or not to exceed 15/each; to be 4 feet in the Barl, and not quite 5/3 of an Inch in the bore, to be of pretty good Sube. 1 pr. Strong Toed Clogs, very large, No. 9s. I fancy will scarce be too big. The Shoes you sent me last were made with the Grain side out and very narrow Toed, neither of wch. woud I again choose, prefering the flesh side outwards and not over narrow in the Toes."

***To CAPTAIN JOSIAH THOMPSON⁷⁵**

Mount Vernon, July 2, 1766.

Sir: With this Letter comes a Negro (Tom) which I beg the favour of you to sell, in any of the Islands you may go to, for whatever he will fetch, and bring me in return from him

One Hhd of best Molasses

One Ditto of best Rum

One Barrl of Lymes, if good and Cheap

One Pot of Tamarinds, contg. about 10 lbs.

Two small Do of mixed Sweetmeats, abt. 5 lb. each.

And the residue, much or little, in good old Spirits.

That this Fellow is both a Rogue and a Runaway (tho' he was by no means remarkable for the former, and never practised the latter till of late) I shall not pretend to deny. But that he is exceeding healthy, strong, and good at the Hoe, the whole neighbourhood can testifie and particularly Mr. Johnson and his Son, who have both had him under them as foreman of the gang; which gives me reason to hope he may, with your good management, sell well, if kept clean and trim'd up a little when offerd for Sale.

I shall very chearfully allow you the customary Commissions on this affair, and must beg the favour of you (lest he should attempt his escape) to keep him handcuffed till you get to Sea, or in the Bay, after which I doubt not but you may make him very useful to you.

I wish you a pleasant and prosperous Passage, and a safe and speedy return,⁷⁶ being Sir, etc.

75. Of the schooner *Swift*, in the West Indies trade.

76. It was a common practice to transport troublesome blacks. In the Boston *Evening Post* of Aug, 3, 1761, occurs the following advertisement: "To be Sold, a Parcel of Likely Negroes, imported from Africa, cheap for Cash, or short credit...Also if any Persons have any Negro Men, strong and hearty, tho' not of the best moral character, which are proper subjects for Transportation, may have an Exchange for small Negroes."— *Ford*.

***To JAMES GILDART**

Mount Vernon, July 21, 1766.

Sir: Your favours of the 28th. of Nov'r by the Totness, and 22d. of April by the Rogers, are come safe to hand; and for the loss of the last mentioned Ship I am heartily sorry, but hope the damage is mitigated by Insurance.

The small Crop which I made last year put it out of my power to contribute to the load of the Totness; which, since the Misfortune to the Rogers has gone round to Rappahannock and will I suppose, soon get loaded; But, five Hhds of Tobacco which I subscribed towards the load of Captn. Pollard in the Fryer, this year I have directed to be consigned to you, hoping they will be sold to the best advantage and the proceeds applied to my credit, out of which please to pay Messrs. Crosbies & Trafford the Sum of £1.3.7¼ being a Ball'e due them, and send me 25 Sacks of Salt, by return of the Fryer, in good twilld Sacks to be marked GW and Numberd 1 to 25.

When I was upon York River about the first of May, I directed a Ton of Mastr. Custis's Tobacco (more I could not, having made a very scanty Crop there also), to be kept for the Johnston who I was told might every day be expected, but hearing a few days ago that She was not arrival, and being unwilling to miss the opportunity of Shipping early, I ordered it to London with the rest of his Tobacco; provided Mulloy should not be arrived before my Letter got to hand, but in that case,

still to give it to him in expectation of your selling it well, and placing the proceeds to the young Gentleman's Credit.

I am much obligd to you for your enquiry inn the prices of Hemp and Flax, together with the Charges &ca. attending the Exportation and Sale of them. As you have receivd a small quantity of the former, I should be glad

to know what the Freight was charged at. What Sized packages are recommended, I mean (if pressed in Chests) what the Gauge of the Chests shoud be, as to the length, depth, and width; for like Tobacco, I suppose a Much greater quantity will be in the same compass at one time than another though it is requisite that there shoud be no difference in size to render Stowage more compact. And whether any difficulties will probably arise in obtaining the bounty, a thing pretty much apprehended here by many, from some Clauses in the Act of Parliament which gives the Bounty. I am Sir, etc.

By the Fryer, Captn. Pollard.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Mount Vernon, July 21, 1766.

Gentn: In a Letter of the 28th. Ultio. (Acompanying my Invoices of the 23d. preceeding) I desired 6 Corn and 6 grass Scythes might be sent me (as also 6 Turners Chissels) since which having occasion to make use of the Scythes which came in last year I find such manifest disadvantages from having them, some of one length some of another, some crooked, and some strait, that I now beg the favour of you, instead of the above 12, to send me 2 doz'n exactly agreeable to the Inclosed Mem'm which I send for the Tradesman's direction, and to prevent mistakes.

Inclosd you have Invoices of Goods wanting for our Plantations on York River, which please to forward as early as possible especially the Seins which will be wanted by the first of March. The Hilling Hoes recd. this year are nearly as bad (Mr. Valentine writes me) as those we were obligd to return last year and nothing but necessity can now justifie his keeping of them. I hope this will not be the case again.

Your favour of the 27 of March, now before me, Accts. for the £4.4.10 which I could not before understand. The Shoes mentioned by Mr. Didsbury is right I believe, so far as the sending of them; but it was certainly wrong too contrive a dble. quantity and of such kinds as coud by no means

answer the Intention, they are still upon hand and cannot be sold, however I do not dispute the payment.

I could wish to hear that our Tobacco's were all sold and at a good price as I think we do not often get by keeping it too long.

The Repeal of the Stamp Act, to whatsoever causes owing, ought much to be rejoiced at, for had the Parliament of Great Britain resolv'd upon enforcing it the consequences I conceive would have been more direful than is generally apprehended both to the Mother Country and her Colonies.

All therefore who were Instrumental in procuring the Repeal are entitled to the Thanks of every British Subject and have mine cordially. I am Gentn., etc.

Gave to Mr. Richd. Henderson to send.

***To ROBERT CARY & COMPANY**

Mount Vernon, August 22, 1766.

Gentn: Since my last of the 21st. Ult. the Goods by Capt. Wylie are come to hand, among which the Wheat Riddles are so entirely useless that I shall be under a necessity of sending them back, or keeping by me as useless lumber. This could not possibly have happened had my directions of the 6th. of November last been attended to for there I expressly desired Sand Sieves for the purpose of Sifting out the dust and retaining the Wheat, instead of which the wicker is so open that not only dust but all the Wheat passes through likewise which as I before said renders them of no Service in nature to me.

It would really be kind of the Tradesmen and Shopkeepers if they will not literally observe directions (when directions are minutely given) not to send the Goods at all, for I might as well have received a piece of Irish Linnen when broadcloth was wrote for as to have got Riddles that will let all my Wheat through when I wanted such as would only pass of the dust and Sand.

I must again beg the favour of you to send me a dozen of these Riddles, or Sand Sieves to be made of midling course and strong Iron wire, so close as to admit none of the Grain to pass through, but Sand and dust only, I am Gentn., etc.

By the friendship, to Glasgow.

***To CAPTAIN JOSHUA POLLARD**

Mount Vernon, August 22, 1766.

Sir: Your Bills of Loading for my Tobacco are come to hand, by which it woud appear that the Tobacco was Shipd in good order, whereas I am informed (and by mere chance too) that some of the Tobo. was entirely mind and the whole much damaged. I have in consequence sent the bearer Mr. Lund Washington to examine into a state of it, and to have the damages settled upon an equitable footing; or, if this cannot be done that you will then take the whole upon yourself and pay me the Curr. Cash price which Tobacco was then, or is now, selling at it [*sic*] in the Country. One of these I must insist upon being determined not to Submit to the loss I shoud otherwise sustain by the damage I am told the Tobo. met with.

It will appear by our Inspectors that my Tobacco was delivered in good order, and I can proove that the Craft which receivd it had twelve or fifteen Inches of Rain Water in her Bottom entirely discoloured by the juice of the Tobacco; nothing but a miracle therefore could save it from destruction. I want nothing but an equitable adjustment of this matter and the bearer is authorized to settle it finally on my behalf. I am Sir, etc.

***To STEWART & CAMPBELL**

Mount Vernon, September 4, 1766.

Gentn. Your favour of the 25th. of March came safe to my hands, but not till lately.

My Tobacco Consignments to London, has been confind in a great measure to one House, and where there is no essential causes of complaint I have generally held it inconsistent with the rules of good policy and common justice to be always changing. True it is, my Tobacco has fetch'd less than I think it ought to have done for some time past; but this, as it might have been owing to my prejudice and partiality, rather than remissness in the Sellar I have hitherto submitted to it. However, as Interest in most cases is, and in this particular one ought to be, consulted, I have no scruples in confessing, that I shoud feel the warmest Inclination to those whose care and assiduity woud render me the most pleasing and beneficial Sales, if I could find them out, and was still to pursue the business of Tobacco making; but this I have left off in a great measure, and believe I shall discontinue it totally on this River (Potomack).

Your Agent has committed some mistake in advising you that I owe for a Servant since the year 1759. The first, indeed the only servant I ever bought from any of your ships till this spring, was in the year 1763 and for this I paid Doctr. Ross (of whom I purchased him) according to agreement. There are many persons in this Country of my name (tho' of none bearing the same Christian name) if the mistake therefore has not arisen from this, I do not know how to account for it. I am, etc.

By the friendship to Glasgow.

***To JAMES GILDART**

Mount Vernon, September 22, 1766.

Sir: Since my last of 21st. of July the five Hhds of Tobacco there mentioned got damaged in getting on board of Captn. Pollard, to what amount I cannot take upon me to say. The Captn. from some causes which he can best explain neglecting to have a re-view of the whole Tobacco that the loss might be properly ascertained, and satisfaction made before his departure from hence. That one Hhd was so much damaged as to under go an Amputation of 50 or 60 lbs., and that the rest was exceedingly wet and ought to have suffered in like manner I have common report for authority, but how far this is to be credited you will be better able to judge when the Tobacco comes to be opened.

The Captn., conscious that the Tobacco did suffer, and that t Ought to be recompensed; agrees, that what ever damage it appears to have sustained by the heavy rains in which it lay in an open fiat and receivd this Injury he will make good to you on my behalf; and to you Sir I must refer the matter, having no other means of obtaining redress as the Tobacco was stowed in the Ship before I had notice of the Accident, consequently out of my power to have it review'd. How practicable it may be to distinguish Country damage from Ship damage is better known to those who are conversant in these things than to me. The Captn. says it is easy to be done; if it is not, I suppose mine will come under the denomination of Ship damage and I shall receive ½ pr. ct. when he ought to have paid me 18/ pr. Ct.(this Curr'y) here for its a wide difference this and what ought not to be submitted to if there is a way of avoiding it. I must beg your excuse for this trouble and am Sir, etc.⁷⁷

77. Washington attended the sessions of the burgesses in Williamsburg, Va., from November 6 to December 16, with 10 days of traveling. Ford quotes from the *Historical Magazine* (July, 1863) that: "December 16, 1766. At a meeting of the Trustees [of Alexandria], 'Present, Geo. William Fairfax,

Esq. The Trustees proceeded to appoint a Trustee in the room of Geo. Johnston, deceased, and have unanimously chosen George Washington, Esq.' He declined serving."